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HARDING SIGNS FOR FOREST

Defender leaves St Mary's to take up three-year deal – See page 2



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JAMES FOAD

Southampton rower backs GB to reach gold standard

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SAINTS' LEARNING CURVE

SAINTS 0 AJAX 1

SAINTS suffered a 1-0 defeat to Ajax as they resumed their pre-season preparations at St Mary's.

The Dutch side bossed the early stages of the game but Saints adapted to bring themselves back into the reckoning.

However, they gifted the ball to Aras Obiliz midway through the second half and he showed a calm head in front of goal to score what proved to be the only goal of an interesting game, but one which had few chances.

● See pages 2-3 for full match report.

Positives for boss Adkins despite home loss

RULED OUT: Jay Rodriguez puts the ball past Ajax keeper Kenneth Vermeer but his effort is disallowed.

TERRY PAINE



Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column
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NON-LEAGUE



SIX pages of non-league news
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FOOTBALL



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LAST CHANCE TO BUY

Saints Spotlight



FOREST SNAP UP DAN



SAINTS left-back Dan Harding has signed for Championship side Nottingham Forest. He has signed a three-year contract and joins fellow new boys Adlene Guedioura, Danny Collins and Greg Halford at the City Ground, who all completed moves this week. "It's brilliant, I'm really pleased," Harding told the club's official website, nottingham-forest.co.uk.

"I spoke to the gaffer Sean O'Driscoll and liked what he had to say. I'm really excited." Harding, pictured, made 25 appearances for Southampton last season as they secured promotion to the Barclays Premier League. Forest chairman Omar Al Hasawi told the club's official website: "We're delighted with the way things are taking shape. "Like Adlene, Danny and Greg, Dan is an experienced performer and knows what it takes to gain promotion from the Championship."

The 28-year-old was Alan Pardew's first signing as Saints boss in 2009, initially joining on a two-year deal after being released by Ipswich Town.

He made almost 100 appearances for Saints and played a big part in the back-to-back promotions under Nigel Adkins.

● For full reaction to Harding's move and why it signals no Saints player is sure of his place, don't miss Monday's *Daily Echo*.

SAINTS 0 AJAX 1: FONTE MISTAKE PROVES COSTLY

AJAX TAKE FULL OF DEFENSIVE

SAINTS suffered a 1-0 defeat to Ajax as they resumed their pre-season preparations at St Mary's.

The Dutch side bossed the early stages of the game but Saints adapted to bring themselves back into the reckoning.

However, they gifted the ball to Aras Obiliz midway through the second half and he showed a calm head in front of goal to score what proved to be the only goal of an interesting game, but one which had few chances.

Though the formation was nominally described as a 4-3-3, in reality it quickly became clear that it was the 4-3-2-1 line-up that Nigel Adkins appears to be favouring ahead of the new season.

Rickie Lambert was in effect a lone striker with Jay Rodriguez and Guly do Prado trying to get forward from the left and right side to support.

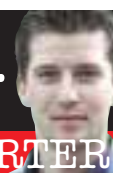
Saints were struggling to even get a touch of the ball early on.

Ajax were, as expected, a good team, but Saints' forma-

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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER



tion did get plenty of players behind the ball, albeit deep inside their own half, which meant they conceded possession in large areas of the pitch.

Siem De Jong had a half chance after being picked out by a near post corner but he flicked his header over the bar.

Saints looked as though they were going to execute their plan having soaked up so much pressure and then threatening to score on the break.

Danny Fox swung in a terrific cross from the left on 20 minutes but it was just slightly behind Lambert who tried to hold it up and get it back to Adam Lallana to score but Ajax were able to get it away.

As Saints started to enjoy their best spell in the game

midway through the first half Rodriguez did get the ball in the net after a through ball from Do Prado but the flag was up for offside and it didn't count.

Lambert tried an optimistic effort from 35 yards on the half volley but it whizzed wide of the goal.

Saints created their best opening of the game on the half hour mark.

Nathaniel Clyne was starting to get forward and get into the game and was found by Lallana.

The right back did well to cut the ball back to James Ward-Prowse but Ajax keeper Kenneth Vermeer was quick off his line to save at his feet.

Do Prado tried to score with a wonder strike on 37 minutes



but it was well wide.

Up the other end Toby Alderweireld had to stretch to reach a right wing cross but that meant he couldn't get his header on target.

Lambert got a good strike on the ball two minutes before the break but it took a deflection and flashed past the target.

Saints had managed to change the way the game was going, from struggling to get on the ball early on to looking the more likely to score later on in the first half.

However, when the half-time whistle went a first 45 minutes that contained virtually no genuine chances came to an end.

Both sides made a change at the break with Frazer Richardson replacing Clyne at right back for Saints while Viktor Fischer came on for Derk Boerrigter for Ajax.

Saints started the second half brightly with Do Prado whipping in a low cross from the

Inside

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Saints' forgotten men impress at Exeter



PAGES 30-31: Hampshire cricket

PAGES 36-37:
River Hamble Games – picture special



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS SPECIAL
- PAGES 16-23



NIGEL Adkins opted for a 4-4-3 formation as Saints' pre-season preparations stepped up a gear against Ajax.

The Saints boss has been looking at different formations ahead of the club's return to the Premier League to diversify from the 4-4-2, with either a flat or a diamond midfield, that has dominated

TEAM NEWS

their successive promotion winning campaigns.

Having had a good look at playing a lone striker with two just off him, Adkins decided to try a slightly more attacking variation of the formation, starting with a

4-3-3 with Guly do Prado and Jay Rodriguez either side of Rickie Lambert.

Nathaniel Clyne was handed his first taste of St Mary's action as a Saints player while young James Ward-Prowse was also given the chance to impress in the heart of the midfield trio.

Saints Spotlight

AS ADKINS' MEN STEP UP PRE-SEASON

ADVANTAGE SLIP-UP

COLLISION COURSE: James Ward-Prowse, Kenneth Vermeer and Toby Alderwied battle for the ball.



ABOVE: Aras Ozbiliz nets the winner.

LEFT: Adam Lallana and Toby Alderwied battle for the ball.

ward moments later but Jos Hooiveld was in the right place to clear behind.

Saints made a triple change on 70 minutes with Billy Sharp, Luke Shaw and Paulo Gazzaniga replacing Lambert, Fox and Davis with all three direct replacements.

Sharp might have equalised just two minutes after being introduced.

A decent run saw him picked out by a lobbed pass over the top which he brought down on his thigh.

However, he could never quite get himself in a position to shoot with the ball at his feet and in the end Vermeer was able to get down and get a hand on it and the ball was hacked clear.

Ajax worked a decent opening on 78 minutes as the Dutch side drilled a corner outside



the area to Ozbiliz who took a touch and curled in a left footed shot that Gazzaniga had to turn wide diving away to his right.

Saints made another triple change two minutes later with Dean Hammond, Jason Puncheon and Richard Chaplow coming on for Morgan Schneiderlin, Lallana and James Ward-Prowse.

Ozbiliz came close again on 81 minutes when Gazzaniga's poor ball out directly found the goalscorer. He needed no second invitation to shoot but fired just wide.

Fischer cut in from the left and curled an effort towards goals but it went narrowly wide.

There were another two substitutions for Saints with five minutes remaining as Calum Chambers and Steve De Ridder replaced Do Prado and Rodriguez.

Saints managed to see plenty of the ball in the closing stages but the rhythm of the game had been disrupted by all the changes and they couldn't create an opening to take a result away from the game as well as the valuable lessons that had been learned.

They now have a further week to work on things before hosting Wolves at St Mary's next weekend.



CLOSE COMBAT: Guly Do Prado and Derk Boerrigter.

right that Rodriguez had the chance to turn home from close range but couldn't quite readjust himself in time and saw the ball hit his knee and bounce away.

Lambert was picked out by a Lallana corner on 53 minutes but headed it tamely to the keeper.

Saints were playing well and keeping the ball – so it came as a shock when Ajax took the

lead on 65 minutes.

Jose Fonte played a poor pass out as Saints needed to clear their lines and only picked out Aras Ozbiliz.

He played a quick one-two with Kolbeinn Sigthorsson and made no mistake when in behind with the finish, going low across Kelvin Davis and into the far corner for 1-0.

Fischer opted to cross rather than shoot when he broke for-

Solent Uni's Premier League links

SOUTHAMPTON Solent University have more reason than most to take a keen interest in next season's Premier League, writes ADAM LEITCH.

The Lawrie McMenemy Centre for Football Research have landed even more graduates in roles with top flight clubs ahead of the big kick-off.

The latest to get his chance is football studies graduate Daniel Simpson, who will be working as a recruitment analyst for West Brom.

Higher up the division's glamour list comes Champions League winners Chelsea who now have no fewer than three graduates on their books.

Kane Cowburn, Marlon Fahy and Max Fouracre are all at Stamford Bridge in the international, scouting and coaching departments respectively.

Football studies graduate Sam Hall will be part of the set-up at promoted Reading, landing a job as senior performance analyst for the Royals academy, while football studies with business student Jeremy Fox was part of the team that provided analysis during last season's promotion winning campaign.

The Lawrie McMenemy Centre for Football Research has even had a hand in Saints' recent success, providing programmes of testing to allow close monitoring of the players in order that they be able to train in a more effective manner.



BRUCE-LOW

The LMCFR board member and Head of Sport Science, Dr Stewart Bruce-Low, said: "We are absolutely delighted the hard work of all the backroom staff and players paid off to ensure promotion."

"The team at the Centre for Health, Exercise and Sport Science have worked hard with Nick Harvey to help him deliver the best training support to the players."

"As the relationship grows between the University and Southampton FC, we hope to develop and improve the work we do further this coming season, which we hope will help in some small way ensure Saints remain in the Premier League."

Speaking of the Chelsea appointments, LMCFR Director Dr Richard Elliott added: "It is testament to our football degrees that our graduates are of a caliber that attracts clubs like Chelsea to employ them."

"All three of the students who have been employed by Chelsea have worked extremely hard during their time with us."

"I hope that they will have long and happy careers in the industry."



Pompey crisis not players' fault



MUCH is being made of the requests being made to Pompey players to relinquish their wages etc and save the club from liquidation.

It would be all too easy to take the likes of Ben Haim and Kanu and cast them as villains in all of this.

It's almost pantomime time as Pompey fans line up outside the training ground to shout "Boooo" or "He's

behind you" to the players as they hand out letters asking them to leave the club potless.

Of course you have to ask why a player would hold on for their money when the club could fold because of it and they'd get nothing.

But since when did the players become the villains in this fiasco?

It's all very well the fans deciding what needs to be

done, but it's easy when it's not your money, isn't it?

I wonder if these fans would act so selflessly if their employers asked the same of them? At the end of the day is just a job for these people and let's not forget that for long, long periods these people were being paid late, if at all.

Now these footballers are being emotionally blackmailed into writing off size-

able sums whilst the wealthy men who got the club into the state it's in right now do nothing.

It's not right is it, but then when did Portsmouth and "the right thing" go hand in hand?

I'll leave you with one amusing fact.

One of Portsmouth's trialists is called Mustapha Dumbya. You couldn't make it up...

YOU have to love pre season friendlies.

A bigger waste of time in the footballing calendar I have yet to see.

Surely only the hardened football fans can see beyond the haze of alcohol and holiday exhaustion and actually take note of the players and how they perform.

My experiences of overseas pre season friendlies consist of saying 'hello' to the usual suspects who fanatically follow Saints home and away, watching the new players and then forgetting who they were after a night out on the town.

That said, just when did actually watching a pre season game give us any indicator as to what to expect that coming season?

Good starts inevitably lead to sluggish, leaden league starts and poor starts are just ignored as being "just typical Saints."

Pre season games are purely an excuse to look at that rare and noble group of players for whom pre season games are just about the only time they'll ever get a run out for a professional football club.

Southampton FC was always awash with players who never made it past the reserves despite turning heads pre season.

Just how many players did Saints sign for a "bargain" £1 million only to give them away the following year?

There have been several disgruntled posts on various Saints message boards across the world that Saints haven't acquired a "marquee signing" that would turn heads and announce that Saints are back in the big time.

I must be in a minority of one, glad that Saints haven't bought in Premiership experience and raided the relegated clubs for their so called best players.

Relegated clubs are relegated for a reason.... They weren't good enough and their shining lights weren't bright enough to save them from their fate.

£10 million for Wolves' Matt Jarvis? In what bizarre, twilight world is Matt Jarvis worth that staggering sum?

I wouldn't pay you £10 million for their entire squad, let alone one player.

I don't want Saints to be signing players who just weren't good enough for the Premiership.

I want them to be signing players who are desperate to be in the Premiership, for whom playing in the top flight is a privilege not a right, and for whom this is their big chance.

Saints are looking quite adventurous in the transfer market.

The signing of Rodriguez is a bold one.

It may seem like a large transfer



OVER-PRICED: Wolves winger Matthew Jarvis.

fee right now but should he get 15 goals this season then it'll be an absolute steal.

Unlike Liverpool, whose transfer activity just defies all logic.

You pay waaaay over the odds for an up and coming striker, he finally

starts to justify his price tag and shows great promise for England, and what do you do?

Look to sell him for an astonishing £15 million loss after just one year.

Absolutely stark raving bonkers, I'll pass on taking criticism from

Liverpool fans on who we buy or don't buy.

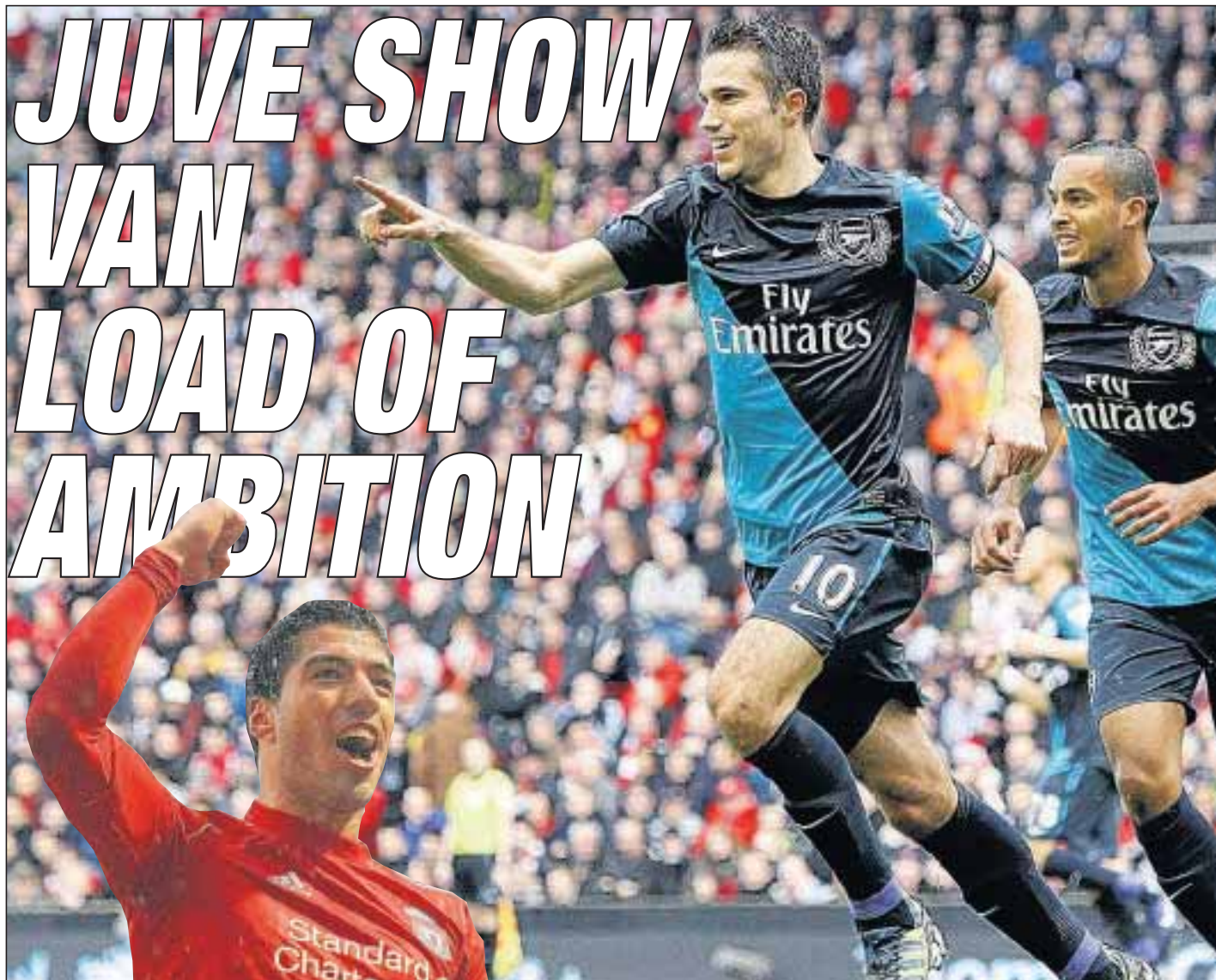
The startling truth is that every single top club has expensive skeletons in their cupboards, players that cost millions of pounds and then cost them millions to get rid of.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



JUVE SHOW VAN LOAD OF AMBITION



TRANSFER TARGETS: Robin van Persie, main picture, and, inset, Luis Suarez.

THERE has been a quickening of the tempo in the transfer market in recent days.

Perhaps the most ambitious of all the European clubs is Serie A champions Juventus who, according to reports, plan to bring Robin van Persie and Liverpool's Luis Suarez to Italy.

Juventus's first enquiry was rebuffed by Arsenal but they are prepared to offer a package worth £190,000 a week and believe the possibility of linking Van Persie with Suarez is a turning point in negotiations.

If they do secure Van Persie's signature, Juventus would allow Alessandro Matri to move to AC Milan, raising the necessary funds for an approach for Suarez.

The Liverpool striker is under contract at Anfield but the Reds are keen to tie him down to a longer deal.

The 25-year-old has scored 15 goals since joining Liverpool in January 2011 and is undoubtedly a skilful frontman but one I do not believe will score on a regular basis.

He's a maker of chances rather than a taker. Manager Brendan Rodgers is keen to keep the Uruguayan international and has held preliminary talks with the player as negotiations continue over his new contract.

But that would not frighten away Juventus, who believe a bid of £28m may tempt Liverpool into negotiations.

On a sentimental front, I was sad to hear news that Tim Cahill has agreed to join New York Red Bulls.

The Major League soccer team paid a reported £1m for the 32-year-old, who has spent eight years at Everton.

It was Cahill's outstanding form in

2004, including three goals that helped Millwall to that year's FA Cup final – having joined the club from his home town side Sydney United on a free transfer – that brought him to Everton's attention.

Millwall eventually lost 3-0 at the Millennium Stadium and Cahill joined Everton later that summer.

He is not the tallest yet a number of his goals were scored through his ability to outjump defences.

He will be sadly missed at Goodison Park where he has been a real favourite for the best part of a decade.

Like their north London rivals, Tottenham are having problems keeping hold of one of their star players.

While the Van Persie saga is yet to run its course at Arsenal, Luka Modric has thrown his toys out the pram at White Hart Lane.

The Croatia international is trying

to force the issue of a transfer to Real Madrid.

Modric has dug his heels in. He did not report for training on Friday and was not on the flight to Los Angeles with the rest of the squad on Saturday.

The upshot of his behaviour is that Spurs fined him two weeks' wages, a reported £80,000.

Quite right too. He's paid to play for Spurs and what is more damaging from the former Dynamo Zagreb player is that four years are left on his contract. Andre Villas-Boas hopes the situation does not drag on as he prepares his side for the forthcoming season.

The sticking point is that Spurs are insisting on a £40m fee. Up to now Real Madrid have offered a reported £27m plus add-ons.

I endorse the club's stance. Modric's attitude leaves a lot to be desired.

Samba Boys lead GB a merry dance

MIDDLESBROUGH'S Riverside Stadium gave us the first glimpse of what we can expect from Great Britain's footballers at the Olympics.

The Brazilians produced a sparkling, free-flowing performance that GB could not get to grips with.

They went on to a comfortable 2-0 win. Believe it or not, the cream of Brazil has never won Olympic gold.

This year their preparations have been intense with the final objective being to win the 2014 World Cup as hosts.

Brazil's national side has, in recent years, taken on a European look largely down to the number of players at European clubs.

It was so refreshing to see the younger generation, the likes of Neymar and Oscar, lead GB a merry dance.

Their inter-play and flair caused mayhem and made GB look what they are – a bunch of players thrown together at the last moment.

They also struggled in the last third although it was encouraging to see Daniel Sturridge recover from viral meningitis, fortunately spotted at an early stage by Chelsea's medical team.

Apart from Sturridge, GB manager Stuart Pearce has very few positives to focus on.

There is plenty of room for improvement after the 1-1 draw against Senegal ahead of Sunday's game against the UAE at Wembley.

On a positive note, at least we cannot face Spain or Brazil till the semis.

Perhaps GB's chances were best summed up by Craig Bellamy, when he said: "Thank goodness Brazil are not in our group."

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LEAGUE 1 INS AND OUTS

BOURNEMOUTH

In: Miles Addison (Derby) undisclosed, Lewis Grabban (Rotherham) undisclosed, Eunan O'Kane (Torquay) free
Out: Warren Cummings (AFC Wimbledon) free, Mathieu Baudry (L Orient) free, Michael Symes (L Orient) free, Shaun Cooper (Crawley, free)

BRENTFORD

In: Farid El Alagui (Falkirk) free, Harlee Dean (Saints) free
Out: Karleigh Osborne (Millwall) free, Craig Woodman (Exeter) free, Sam Wood (Wycombe) undisclosed, Marcus Bean (Colchester) free

BURY

In: Marcus Marshall (Rotherham) free, Adam Lockwood (Doncaster) free, Lateef Elford-Alliyu (West Brom) free, Trevor Carson (Sunderland) free
Out: Mike Grella (Scunthorpe) free

CARLISLE

In: Danny Cadamarteri (unattached) free, Mike Edwards (Notts County) free

COLCHESTER

In: Clinton Morrison (Sheff Wed) free, Freddie Sears (West Ham) free, Marcus Bean (Brentford) free
Out: Lloyd James (Leyton Orient) free, Ashley Vincent (Port Vale) free, Steven Gillespie (Fleetwood) undisclosed, Kay Odejayi (Rotherham) free

COVENTRY

In: Reece Brown (Man United) loan, Callum Ball (Derby) loan, William Edjenguuele (Panetolikos) free, Kevin Malaga (Nice) free, Kevin Kilbane (Hull) free, John Fleck (Rangers) free, Stephen Elliott (Hearts) free
Out: Jonson Clarke-Harris (Peterborough) free, Richard Keogh (Derby) undisclosed, Freddy Eastwood (Southend) free, Gael Bigirimana (Newcastle) undisclosed, Clive Platt (Northampton) undisclosed

CRAWLEY

In: Mark Connolly (Bolton) free, Matt Sadler (Walsall) free, Paul Jones (Peterborough) free, Shaun Cooper (Cherries) free
Out: Scott Shearer (Rotherham) free

CREWE ALEXANDRA

In: Michael West (Ebbsfleet) undisclosed, Matthias Pogba (Wrexham) nominal, Gregor Robertson (Chesterfield) free, Mark Ellis (Torquay) undisclosed
Out: David Artell (Port Vale) free, Nick Powell (Manchester United) £4m

DONCASTER ROVERS

In: David Cotterill (unattached) free, Robbie Blake (Bolton) free, David syers (Bradford) free
Out: Adam Lockwood (Doncaster) free, Sam Hird (Chesterfield) free, James Hayter (Yeovil) free

HARTLEPOOL UNITED

In: Simon Walton (Plymouth) free, Jonathan Franks (unattached) free
Out: Gary Liddle (Notts County) free

LEYTON ORIENT

In: Ryan Allsop (Millwall) free, Nathan Clarke (Huddersfield) free, Lloyd James (Colchester) free, Ryan Brunt (Stoke City) loan, Mathieu Baudry (Bournemouth) free, Michael Symes (Bournemouth) free, Anthony Griffith (Port Vale) free
Out: George Porter (Burnley) undisclosed, Matthew Spring (Wycombe) undisclosed, Dean Leacock (Notts County) free, Terrell Forbes (Chesterfield) free

MK DONS

In: Alan Smith (Newcastle) free, Jon Otsemobor (Sheff Wed) free
Out: George Williams (Fulham) undisclosed

NOTTS COUNTY

In: Yoann Arquin (Hereford) free, Joss Labadie (Tranmere) free, Manny Smith (Walsall) free, Jamal Campbell-Ryce (Bristol City) free, Dean Leacock (Leyton Orient) free, Gary Liddle (Hartlepool) free, Bartosz Bialkowski (Saints) free, Enoch Showunmi (Tranmere, free)
Out: Stuart Nelson (Gillingham) free, Charlie Allen (Gillingham) free, Ishmel Demontagnac (Northampton) free, Ben Burgess (Tranmere) free, Mike Edwards (Carlisle) free

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

In: Lee Croft (Derby) loan, Dan Taylor (Newcastle) free, Conor Brown (Sheff United) free, Cliff Byrne (Scunthorpe) free
Out: Paul Black (Tranmere) free, Rueben Reid (Yeovil) free, Zander Diamond (Burton) free, Chris Taylor (Millwall) free, Keanu Marsh-Brown (Yeovil) free, Kieran Lee (Sheff Wed) free. *Cont on facing page ...*

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

Fletch still has big role to play

BOSS Paul Groves believes Steve Fletcher's wealth of experience could prove vital for Cherries this season – both on and off the pitch.

Fletcher, who on Thursday celebrated his 40th birthday, featured once during Groves's caretaker stewardship last season following a loan spell at Plymouth.

Groves is the seventh permanent manager Fletcher has worked under since he first signed for Cherries from hometown club Hartlepool 20 years ago.

And although he is believed to be the oldest outfield player in the Football League, Groves insists Fletcher still has a crucial role at the club.

Fletcher, Cherries' record appearance-maker, will be vying for a place alongside Frank

Demouge, Lewis Grabban, Josh McQuoid, Matt Tubbs and Wes Thomas.

Groves said: "He will play a key role because he will play a part off the pitch as well as on it. It remains to be seen how much he plays because there is strong competition in that area which is what you want.

"But he has attributes that some of the other players don't so that has got to be good.

"His attributes will cause problems for certain teams and we

will look at that. We have to look at what we have got in the mix with all of our strikers.

"You have to be dedicated to the cause to still be playing at 40. In some ways, it helps Steve because his strengths are his power and his ability to bring others into play. Although you have to be able to get around the pitch in the modern game, you don't always have to charge around.

"His attributes have enabled him to play as long as he has."

Fletcher, whose current con-

tract has 12 months to run, had been facing an uncertain future under previous boss Lee Bradbury who allowed him to go on loan last season.

Groves added: "People underestimate what he brings to the dressing room. He is a fantastic character and a pleasure to have around.

"He has a big value to the club and uses his experience in the right way.

"You can have experienced players but it is about how they use that experience.

"Steve uses it to try to help the younger ones and help the dressing room. I have got nothing but praise for him.

"For someone of his age to still be playing and contributing what he does is all credit to him."



STEVE FLETCHER

Holmes part of

TWO former Saints players are part of the biggest rebuilding job in the bottom half of the Football League.

Lee Holmes and Richard Wright, below, are among 13 new players brought to League 1 club Preston North End this summer.

Outspoken manager Graham Westley has totally rebuild the Lilywhites squad in recent weeks.

And that is no surprise given his scathing comments about the players he inherited when he replaced Phil Brown as manager earlier this year.

"Everybody wants success and the key is to know what it takes to get success," Westley said back in April.

"This playing squad hasn't got a clue what it takes to get success.

"Every day I see standards that show me they haven't got a clue what winning is all about.

"That's going to be a thing of the past.

"We're going to see people raising the bar every day they come to work, people who are enthusiastic and privileged to be a part of what they're part of, and fighting with every ounce of sweat and blood in their body to make sure that we're a success."

Holmes, who made just 29 appearances for Saints in four frustrating years at St Mary's, is still only 25 years old.

He seems to have been around for much longer, and actually made his Football League debut for Derby aged just 15 years and 298 days in 2002.

Having spent time on loan at both Oxford United and Swindon last season, the ex-England youth international will be desperately hoping to put down roots in the north west.

As for Wright, he is still fondly remembered at



Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

St Mary's for his loan spell towards the end of 2007/08.

Brought in from Ipswich by manager Nigel Pearson, Wright helped Saints avoid relegation.

He was even voted away player of the year by the Saints' travelling fans, even though he only appeared in a handful of games!

Both Holmes and Wright must be aware that Westley, a former Farnborough boss, does not suffer fools gladly.

"I've never been used to winning so few games and I've never had to show so much compromise with a squad in my life," he said a few weeks ago.

"If I hadn't been as tolerant as I've been, our results wouldn't have gone in the slightly positive direction they've gone in.

"If they'd have seen the real me, we probably

would have had a big fall-out and there could have been a real problem at the club.

"I've had to tread carefully around some of the most mediocre standards I've ever seen in my life."

Westley's most recent signing is ex-Swansea City striker Lee Trundle.

CHANCE FOR SAINTS YOUNGSTERS TO SHINE - PAGES 8 AND 9

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

CHAIRMAN Eddie Mitchell has defended Cherries' decision to sell the club's stadium naming rights to a newly-formed Surrey-based business.

Dean Court – the club's home since 1910 – will be known as the Goldsands Stadium after Cherries struck a deal with Goldsands Management.

The company, which offers a private concierge service, is understood to have paid around £50,000 to have its name above the door for two years.

Mitchell openly admitted he knew little about Goldsands Management and revealed the deal had been brokered by "a mutual friend".

The news received a lukewarm reception from some Cherries supporters with a number saying

Ed defends naming switch

they would continue to refer to the ground as Dean Court.

Mitchell said: "I don't think the stadium will be anything other than Dean Court to most people and probably to everybody deep down."

"But when you have got the opportunity to sell the space and the name, it is an attractive proposition because it is visible and will be in the press."

"We have taken the opportunity to sell the name and are very pleased we have found these people to come in and take it on."

They have paid up front, which was good for us, and it is a figure that has superseded anything we have had before for the stadium rights.

"We don't know a lot about the company but they want to come to the area."

"From what I believe, they specialise in man-management and look after wealthy people and sports people."

"They have got quite a client base but not in this area and want to move across the south coast."

"The first instruction came from a mutual friend and it just so happened our stadium was available at the time. There are a lot of wealthy people in and around the area and that is probably what attracted them to us."

Goldsands managing director John O'Neill said the company, which has an option to extend the agreement into a third year, offered "bespoke life tailoring for premium members – sports men and women in particular".

Dean Court was named after Mr J E Cooper-Dean who granted the club a long lease on land in Kings Park in 1910. He was eventually made president.

The stadium naming rights have since been taken by Fitness First, Classic Eyes and Seward.



EDDIE MITCHELL

Preston rebuild

NEW CHALLENGE: Lee Holmes, left, has joined Preston after four frustrating years at St Mary's.



The 35-year-old – a £1m signing by Bristol City only five years ago – was a free agent after his club Neath were wound up in the High Court recently.

Preston's chairman is Peter Ridsdale, who is now onto his fifth major club having previously been chairman at Leeds United, Cardiff City and Plymouth Argyle.

He was also briefly the owner of Barnsley.

Appointed Preston chairman last December, Ridsdale sacked Brown within a fortnight.

• A HANDFUL of former Saints could be given the chance to kickstart their careers among Cherries and Pompey in League 1 this season.

Keeper Bart Bialkowski has rarely known what it's like to have a run of games since arriving in England to join Saints six and a half years ago.

Released by Nigel Adkins at the end of last term, Bialkowski was quickly snapped up by Magpies boss Keith Curle.

Notts finished just outside the play-off bracket last term, and Bialkowski is one of eight new arrivals at Meadow Lane.

Elsewhere, Lloyd James has remained in the third tier after being released by Colchester United.

James, let go by the U's after his two year contract ended, has joined Leyton Orient, following a loan spell at Crawley Town at the end of 2011/12.

Welsh under-21 international Ryan Doble has moved to promoted Shrewsbury, where he is one of nine new signings.

Doble, who was loaned out to Stockport, Oxford, Cherries and Bury in the last two seasons, never made a league appearance for Saints.

Harlee Dean completed a permanent move to Brentford after impressing in a loan spell from St Mary's last term.

Dean was available on a free after being released by Saints.

Two other former Saints are currently on trial with crisis club Pompey.

Brian Howard played the full 90 minutes of last weekend's 4-0 friendly loss in Gibraltar, while Gillett appeared for the first 78

prior to being substituted.

Both appeared again in Tuesday's 5-1 defeat against Brighton.

One of Pompey's trialists against the Seagulls was Liam Walker, who had played for Gibraltar against them a few days earlier.

Winchester-born Howard has been released by Reading while Gillett has been let go by Doncaster.

Pompey's already depleted squad was reduced still further this week when three players joined Neil Warnock's Leeds United.

Keeper Jamie Ashdown, midfielder David Norris and striker Luke Varney have all moved to Elland Road on free transfers

PORTSMOUTH

Out: Jamie Ashdown (Leeds) free, Marko Futacs (Leicester) free, Hayden Mullins (Birmingham) free, Kelvin Etuhu (Barnsley) free, Joel Ward (Crystal Palace) £400,000, Jason Pearce (Leeds) undisclosed, Stephen Henderson (West Ham) undisclosed, David Norris (Leeds) free, Luke Varney (Leeds) free

PRESTON NORTH END

In: Lee Trundle (unattached), Keith Keane (Luton) free, Jeff Monakana (Arsenal) free, Jose Mousinho (Stevenage) free, Scott Laird (Stevenage) free, Richard Wright (Ipswich) free, Lee Holmes (Saints) free, David Buchanan (Tranmere) free, Nicky Wroe (Shrewsbury) undisclosed, Shane Cansdell-Sherriff (Shrewsbury) undisclosed, David Amoo (Liverpool) free, John Welsh (Tranmere) free, Paul Huntington (Yeovil) free
Out: Conor McLaughlin (Fleetwood) free, Paul Courtts (Derby) undisclosed, Barry Nicholson (Fleetwood) free, Paul Parry (Shrewsbury) free, Seanan Clucas (Bristol Rovers) free, Luke Clark (Accrington) free, George Miller (Accrington) free, David Gray (Stevenage) free, Nicky Hunt (Rotherham) free, Brian McLean (Dundee United) free

SCUNTHORPE UNITED

In: Mike Grella (Bury) free, Christian Rebeiro (Bristol City) free, Callum Kennedy (Swindon) free, James Severn (Derby) free
Out: Sam Togwell (Chesterfield) free, Josh Lillis (Rochdale) free, Michael O'Connor (Rotherham) free, Cliff Byrne (Oldham) free

SHEFFIELD UNITED

In: Darryl Westlake (Walsall) undisclosed, John Cofie (Man United) loan
Out: Matt Lowton (Aston Villa) undisclosed, Conor Brown (Oldham) free

SHREWSBURY

In: Paul Parry (Preston) free, Joe Anyon (Lincoln) free, Chris Weale (Leicester) free, Kevin Summerfield (Cheltenham) free, Rob Purdie (Hereford) free, Darren Jones (Aldershot) free, Ryan Doble (Saints) free, Aaron Wildig (Cardiff) free, Asa Hall (Oxford United) free
Out: Lionel Ainsworth (Rotherham) free, James Collins (Swindon) free, Ian Sharps (Rotherham) free, Nicky Wroe (Preston) undisclosed, Shane Cansdell-Sherriff (Preston) undisclosed

STEVENAGE BOROUGH

In: Lee Hills (Crystal Palace) free, Marcus Haber (St Johnstone) undisclosed, Bondz N'gala (Yeovil) undisclosed, Anthony Grant (Southend) free, James Dunne (Exeter) undisclosed, Steve Arnold (Wycombe) free
Out: Craig Reid (Aldershot) undisclosed, Michael Bostwick (Peterborough) undisclosed, Lawrie Wilson (Charlton) undisclosed, Jennison Myrie-Williams (Port Vale) free, Darren Murphy (Port Vale) free, Stacy Long (AFC Wimbledon) free, Jose Mousinho (Preston) free, Scott Laird (Preston) free

SWINDON TOWN

In: Troy Archibald-Henville (Exeter) undisclosed, Jay McEveley (Barnsley) free, Tommy Miller (Huddersfield) free, Alan Navarro (Brighton) free, James Collins (Shrewsbury) free, Gary Roberts (Huddersfield) free, Andy Williams (Yeovil) free
Out: Jonathan Smith (York) undisclosed, Lee Cox (Oxford United) loan, Alan Connell (Bradford) free, Billy Bodin (Torquay) undisclosed, Callum Kennedy (Scunthorpe) free

TRANMERE ROVERS

In: Liam Palmer (Sheff Wed) loan, Paul Black (Oldham) free, Ben Burgess (Notts County) free, James Wallace (Everton) undisclosed, Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro (Rochdale) free, Danny Harrison (Rotherham) free
Out: Joss Labadie (Notts County) free, Enoch Showunmi (Notts County) free, David Buchanan (Preston) free, John Welsh (Preston) free

WALSALL

In: Florent Cuvelier (Stoke) loan, Dean Holden (Rochdale) loan, Ashley Hemmings (Wolves) free, Fabien Brandy (unattached) free
Out: Darryl Westlake (Sheff Utd) undisclosed, Manny Smith (Notts County) free, Alex Nicholls (Northampton) free, Jamie Tank (Wolves) undisclosed, Kevan Hurst (Southend) free, Ollie Lancashire (Aldershot) free, Matt Sadler (Crawley) free, Ryan Jarvis (Torquay) free

YEOVIL TOWN

In: Rohan Ince (Chelsea) loan, Byron Webster (Northampton) free, Lewis Young (Northampton) free, Nathan Ralph (Peterborough) free, Rueben Reid (Oldham) free, James Hayter (Doncaster) free, Jamie McAllister (Bristol City) free, Sam Foley (Newport County) free, Keanu Marsh-Brown (Oldham) free
Out: Bondz N'gala (Stevenage) undisclosed, Andy Williams (Swindon) free, Paul Huntingdon (Preston) free, Anthony Edgar (Barnet) free

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL STARTS ON PAGE 10

PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS

Arsenal

In: Lukas Podolski (Cologne) £10m, Olivier Giroud (Montpellier) £12m
Out: Jeffrey Monakana (Preston) Free, Ben Glasgow (Stoke) Free, Rhys Murphy (Telstar) Free, Oguzhan Ozyakup (Besiktas) £350k, Manuel Almunia (Released), Tom Cruise (Torquay) Free, Gavin Hoyte (Dagenham & Redbridge) Free

Aston Villa

In: Karim El Ahmadi (Feyenoord) Undisclosed, Matthew Lowton (Sheffield United) Undisclosed, Brett Holman (AZ Alkmaar) Free
Out: Carlos Cuellar (Sunderland) Free, Emile Heskey, Brad Guzan (all released)

Chelsea

In: Marko Marin (Werder Bremen) £6.5m, Eden Hazard (Lille) £32m, Oscar (Internacional) undisclosed, Thorgan Hazard (Lens) undisclosed
Out: Jacob Mellis (Barnsley) Free, Didier Drogba (Shanghai Shenhua) Free, Jose Bosingwa (released), Salomon Kalou (Lille) Free, Rohan Ince (Yeovil) Loan, Thibaut Courtois (Atletico Madrid) Loan, Milan Lakovic (Guimaraes) Loan, Matej Delac (Guimaraes) Loan

Everton

In: Steven Naismith (Rangers) Free
Out: Adam Forshaw (Brentford) Free, James Wallace (Tranmere) Undisclosed, Aristote Nsiala (Accrington) Free, Connor Roberts (Fulham) Free, Marcus Hahnemann, James McFadden (both released), Tim Cahill (New York Red Bulls) undisclosed

Fulham

In: George Williams (MK Dons) Undisclosed, Connor Roberts (Everton) Free, Mladen Petric (Hamburg) Free, Sascha Riether (Cologne) Loan, Hugo Rodallega (Wigan) Free
Out: Andrew Johnson (QPR) Free, Danny Murphy (Blackburn) Free, Zdenek Grygera (KAA Gent) Free, Bjorn Helge Riise (released)

Liverpool

In: Fabio Borini (Roma) undisclosed
Out: David Amoo (Preston) Free, Fabio Aurelio (Gremio) Free, Dirk Kuyt (Fenerbahce) £1m, Joe Rofferty (Rochdale) Free, Stephen Darby (released), Maxi Rodriguez (Newell's Old Boys) undisclosed, Tony Silva (Barnsley) undisclosed

Manchester City

In: Owen Hargreaves, Stuart Taylor (both released), Wayne Bridge (Brighton) Loan, Greg Cunningham (Bristol City) Undisclosed, Omar Elabdellau (Feyenoord) Loan.

Manchester United

In: Nick Powell (Crewe) £4m, Shinji Kagawa (Borussia Dortmund) £12m
Out: Ritchie De Laet (Leicester) Undisclosed, Matty James (Leicester) Undisclosed, Tomasz Kuszczak (Brighton) Free, Oliver Norwood (Huddersfield) Free, Paul Pogba (Juventus) Free, Michael Owen (released), Fabio Da Silva (QPR) Loan, Park Ji-Sung (QPR) £2m, John Cofie (Sheff Utd) Loan, Reece Brown (Coventry) loan

Newcastle United

In: Romain Amalfitano (Stade de Reims) Free, Gael Bigirimana (Coventry) Undisclosed
Out: Leon Best (Blackburn) £3m, Dan Taylor (Oldham) Free, Danny Guthrie (Reading) Free, Peter Lovenkrands (Birmingham) Free, Alan Smith (MK Dons) Free, Fraser Forster (Celtic) Undisclosed

Norwich City

In: Steven Whittaker (Rangers, free), Jacob Butterfield (Barnsley) Tribunal, Rob Snodgrass (Leeds) undisclosed
Out: Adam Drury (Leeds) Free, Zak Whitbread (Leicester) Free, Aaron Wilbraham (Crystal Palace) Free.

QPR

In: Ryan Nelsen (Tottenham) Free, Andrew Johnson (Fulham) Free, Robert Green (West Ham) Free, Samba Diakite (Nancy) Undisclosed, Fabio Da Silva (Manchester United) Loan, Park Ji-Sung (Manchester United) £2m, Junior Hoilett (Blackburn) undisclosed

Continued on facing page ..

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS ON SHOW AT EXETER: From left – Lee Barnard, Bevis Mugabi and Sam Hoskins.

Adam Leitch
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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

PRE-SEASON friendlies at a place like Exeter can throw together the most unlikely of sides.

You have senior players who are probably looking around St James Park and begrudgingly thinking 'what am I doing here?'

Then you have youngsters just making their way into the game looking around and enthusing 'what am I doing here?'

Saints sent a team down the coast for a friendly at Exeter on Wednesday as part of the deal that took centre half Dan Seaborne to St Mary's some two-and-a-half years ago.

It was a Saints XI – for that, read more or less this summer's under-21 side, led by Martin Hunter and featuring a host of young talent who haven't made the first team squad and few of its stars that currently find themselves out of the picture.

Staying professional

Lee Barnard and Ryan Dickson were probably chief amongst those who could have been for wondering just how it had come to this – but you wouldn't have guessed it.

Dickson has been off the radar for some time, and he is probably just hoping to get out of the club to get some regular football, consigned to his fate way down the left back pecking order.

For now, though, it's a case of staying professional ready for a move.

For Barnard this may be more painful.

He also remains professional but so recently he was a main man at St Mary's, firing in goals to earn promotion from League One.

But it has all gone a bit



SAINTS ON SHOW: Jake Sinclair, main picture, takes to the air and, below, new keeper Paulo Gazzaniga.
 Pictures: Chris Moorhouse

Chance for the kids to shine

wrong for him over the past year and now he finds himself not preparing for Ajax with the first team squad, not even on the pre-

season tour, but travelling to Exeter with what in the

main is a youth team.

He appears way down the striking pecking order of Nigel Adkins now.

Barnard may wish to try and force his way back into

the plans but now has to pass Rickie Lambert, Jay Rodriguez, Billy Sharp, Tadanari Lee and possibly Guly do Prado as well – and there is the possibility

GOT A VIEW ON SAINTS? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS ON SHOW AT EXETER: From left – Andy Robinson, Sam McQueen, Matt Rickard and Matt Young.



from six yards out.

And it was Dickson who was the chief creator of both Saints goals in their 2-1 win with left wing crosses.

Chucked into the mix were a couple of other senior names. Seaborne made an emotional return back to the club where it all started for him.

For him this was another step on the path back to the first team, further rehabilitation as he tries to regain sharpness and fitness after so long out with his serious head injury.

The signs were good – he was brave, which he could have lost if there was any doubt in his subconscious about his recovery from injury.

The rest is all a matter of time and matches.

Paulo Gazzaniga was in goal and made a few impressive saves.

Imposing presence

The former Gillingham keeper will be trying to prove he can seriously challenge Kelvin Davis sooner rather than later and one thing you can instantly say for him is that his giant frame is an imposing presence in the goal.

Long limbed, he stretched out an arm a couple of times to paw away a ball that might have beaten a smaller man, and he looked confident as well.

The rest of the side, Ben Reeves aside, who also must be wondering how he slipped from the most likely to breakthrough back down a pay grade, were aspiring youngsters.

It might not be a dream fulfilled for them to play at Exeter exactly, but this is a proper league ground, it was against a proper league team and a good education.

To get on to this stage at all is an achievement and they will be hoping it is the start of things to come.

While some of the bigger names are hoping they used the game to prove their star has not waned just yet ...

Saints may just play one out and out striker next season too.

It's a tough ask.

You could let him off not trying too hard but there

wasn't a hint of that, and all credit to him.

It was he who scored the second goal, showing he is still sharp to react quickest to a loose ball to fire home



SAINTS SUB: Young keeper Chris Johns.



ON THE RUN: Ben Reeves on the ball.



TRAVELLING FANS: Saints supporters at Exeter

From facing page

Out: Patrick Agyemang, Akos Buzsaky, Lee Cook, Danny Gabbidon, Rowan Vine, Peter Ramage, Gary Borrowdale, Danny Shittu (all released), Paddy Kenny (Leeds) Undisclosed, Fitz Hall (Watford) Free.

READING

In: Garath McCleary (Nottingham Forest) Free, Danny Guthrie (Newcastle) Free, Pavel Pogrebnyak (Stuttgart) £6m, Nicky Shorey (WBA) Free, Adrian Mariappa (Watford) Undisclosed, Chris Gunter (Nottingham Forest) £2.5m.

Out: Andy Griffin, Cedric Baseya, Brian Howard, Tomasz Cywka (all released), Joseph Mills (Burnley) Loan.

SAINTS

In: Jay Rodriguez (Burnley) £7m, Steven Davis (Rangers) Free, Nathaniel Clyne (Crystal Palace) undisclosed, Paulo Gazzaniga (Gillingham) undisclosed

Out: Harlee Dean (Brentford) Free, Lee Holmes (Preston) Free, Bartosz Bialkowski (Notts County) Free, Aaron Martin (Crystal Palace) Loan, Ryan Doble (Shrewsbury) Free, David Connolly (Released), Radhi Jaidi (Retired), Tommy Forecast (Gillingham) Loan

STOKE CITY

In: Ben Glasgow (Arsenal) Free, Jamie Ness (Rangers) Free

Out: Andrew Davies (Bradford) Free, Salif Diao, Ricardo Fuller, Tom Soares (all released), Jonathan Woodgate (Middlesbrough) Free, Florent Cuvelier (Walsall) Loan, Ryan Brunt (Leyton Orient) Loan, Matthew Lund (Bristol Rovers) Loan

SUNDERLAND

In: Carlos Cuellar (Aston Villa) Free

Out: Trevor Carson (Bury) Free, Craig Gordon (released), George McCartney (West Ham) Undisclosed, Asamoah Gyan (Al-Ain) Undisclosed, Jordan Cook (Charlton) Free, Michael Liddle (Accrington) Undisclosed

SWANSEA CITY

In: Jonathon De Guzman (Villarreal) loan, Jose Manuel Flores (Genoa) £2m, Michu (Rayo Vallecano) £2m

Out: Ferrie Bodde (released)

TOTTENHAM

In: Gylfi Sigurdsson (Hoffenheim) Undisclosed, Jan Vertonghen (Ajax) Undisclosed

Out: Niko Kranjcar (Dynamo Kiev) £5.5m, Ryan Nelsen (QPR) Free, Lee Angol (Wycombe) undisclosed, Louis Saha (released), Ben Alnwick (Barnsley) Free, Vedran Corlika (Lokomotiv Moscow) undisclosed, Massimo Luongo (Ipswich) loan

WEST BROMWICH

In: Ben Foster (Birmingham) £4m, Yassine El Ghanassy (Genk) loan, Claudio Yacob (Racing Club de Avellaneda) Free

Out: Joe Mattock (Sheffield Wednesday) Free, Keith Andrews (Bolton) Free, Lateef Elford-Alliyu (Bury) Free, Marton Fulop, Somen Tchanyi, Nicky Shorey (Reading) Free, Paul Scharrer (released)

WEST HAM UNITED

In: Jussi Jaaskelainen (Bolton) Free, Mohamed Diame (Wigan) Free, Stephen Henderson (Portsmouth) Undisclosed, George McCartney (Sunderland) Undisclosed, Modibo Maiga (Sochaux) £4.7m, Raphael Spiegel (Grasshoppers Zurich) undisclosed

Out: Sam Cowler (Barnet) Undisclosed, Robert Green (QPR) Free, Frank Nouble (Wolves) Free, Ruud Boffin (Eskisehirspor) Free, Jordan Brown (Barnet) Free, Pablo Barrera (Cruz Azul) undisclosed, Freddie Sears (Colchester) Free, Peter Kurucz, Julien Faubert, John Carew, Papa Bouba Diop (all released), Abdoulaye Faye (Hull) Free.

WIGAN ATHLETIC

In: Fraser Fyvie (Aberdeen) undisclosed

Out: Chris Kirkland (Sheffield Wednesday) Free, Mohamed Diame (West Ham) Free, Steve Gohouri, Hendry Thomas (all released), Hugo Rodallega (Fulham) Free

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Rich in move groove
FORMER Eastleigh wideman Richard Graham has signed for Southern Premier club St Albans City after helping Dartford gain promotion to the Conference National.

The 32-year-old former Northern Ireland under-21 international, pictured right, parted company with Eastleigh last summer after one season at the Silverlake.

He made 22 appearances for Dartford last term in the Blue Square Bet South, but has now moved on again because he was unable to commit full-time due to work commitments.



Scott's Poppies return
STRIKER Scott Joyce has left Poole Town and re-signed for Sydenhams Premier Division side Bournemouth Poppies. Joyce, pictured below, part of the Poole squad that reached last season's Evo-Stik South & West play-off final, scored twice for the Poppies in a 3-2 pre-season defeat at Swanage Town & Herston.



He is joined at Victoria Park by former Gosport Borough defender Charlton Clarke who has switched camps from Blackfield & Langley. Ex-Winchester City utility man Sam Lockyer has also joined Ken Vaughan's Poppies from Premier Division rivals Hamworthy United.

Craig goes to Town
FORMER Havant & Waterlooville left-back Craig Braham-Barrett has joined Blue Square Bet Premier Division club Macclesfield Town.

The ex-Charlton Athletic trainee ended last season with Paul Doswell's Sutton United having spent the previous two years in Hampshire playing for Farnborough and Havant.

The 23-year-old's latest move reunites him with former Farnborough boss Steve King, now in charge at Moss Rose.

HANDY ANDY! LEADER GIVES TOWN ANOTHER MAKEOVER

HAVING laboriously rebuilt Lymington Town last Christmas, 'Mr Fix It' Andy Leader has had to do it all over again.

A sizeable chunk of the squad that finished last season on a flurry of six wins from seven Sydenhams Premier games has moved to pastures new.

Former Tiverton and Andover midfielder Chris Onoufriou has stepped back into the Southern League with Sholing, while Danny Cox and Brazilian Carlos Geteski have joined Sholing's new divisional rivals Winchester City.

Ex-Eastleigh striker Joe Maxwell had signed on again, but he now looks likely to link up with Blackfield & Langley once he gets back from holiday in Marbella.

Dan Fox has vanished off Leader's radar and club stalwart Darren Ritchie has switched camps to Brockenhurst.

James Davis can't play at the moment after changing jobs, but Leader is confident he will be back if his circumstances change.

"That's what you get for winning six of your last seven games!" said Leader, pictured below. "I don't have an issue with anyone leaving the club and wish those who did it the right way nothing but the best, but one or two didn't even bother telling me."

"Three or four weeks ago I was close to knocking it all on the head, thinking 'why bother?', but then you have a look around and it starts coming together again."

"We've put together a nice, young side and we actually have more depth this season than we did last."

"We've beaten Bridport (2-1),



Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Hythe & Dibden (4-0) and Brockenhurst (4-1) in pre-season and, although you can't read too much into that, the signs are good. We should be more than comfortable.

"What I have had this year that I didn't have last year is a pre-season. We've worked the players hard, been on a couple of forest runs and done plenty of ball work."

Leader will be assisted this term by ex-Portsmouth midfielder Stuart Doling. Matt Dunford, his previous right-hand man, will flit between the first-team and the reserves who are now managed by Dave Gray.

Three of Leader's former Andover charges have joined the Lymington playing staff – midfielder Martin Harris, centre half Dan Pancaldi and defender/midfielder Adam Wiltshire.

Former Bemerton full-back John Horner is ready to start playing again after a major knee operation and joining him at Southampton Road are young ex-Eastleigh midfielder Billy D'Souza, local football find Kev Butler and defender/midfielder Rhys Williams who is back for another spell with the club.

Former QK Southampton left-back Martin Randall is also back after training with Town towards the end of last season as is towering centre-half Luke Ansell who missed the whole of 2011/12 following knee surgery.

"I'm looking forward to the start of the season," said Leader, whose new-look side kick off at Bournemouth Poppies next Saturday.

"We'll be an entertaining side again and we'll enjoy it. If you can't enjoy it, you shouldn't be in football."



BACK FROM INJURY:
Lymington Town's Luke Ansell, right.

FA Cup hero leaves Whites



RAITH DEAL:
Stuart Anderson.

SALISBURY City midfielder Stuart Anderson has returned to his native Scotland to sign for Raith Rovers.

The former Southampton trainee, 26, scored ten goals in just under 100 appearances spread over two spells at Salisbury – including the extra-time penalty at Grimsby Town that took them into the FA Cup third round last season.

He finished last term on loan with ex-Whites boss Tommy Widdrington at Eastbourne Borough. Aberdeen-born Anderson signed a contract with Raith earlier this month, becoming Grant Murray's first signing as manager of the Scottish First Division club.

Salisbury defender Luke Ruddick, meanwhile, will miss the start of the Blue Square Bet South season. The former Brentford trainee fractured a foot over

the summer and requires an operation.

"It's a huge blow for him as he'd worked really hard to put last year's injury problems behind him," said Whites assistant manager Mikey Harris.

"He won't make the start of the season, but I have no doubt he will come back stronger and 'Razor' will be putting in those trademark challenges soon!"

There is better news, however, of skipper Chris Giles and fellow defender Ryan Brett, who have missed the pre-season games so far but should be ready for the big kick-off – if not before.

"Bretty has a bit of tendonitis in the knee. He has worked hard in the gym over the summer to develop his strength and power and he's had a bit of a reaction because of this. But he will certainly be fit for the last pre-season friendlies," Harris explained.

"Gilesy had a couple of clean-up operations (on his knee and ankle) at the end of last season. He is on a specific rehabilitation programme and we hope to have him back for the start of the season."

Dan Fitchett went on as a second-half substitute for Salisbury at Brackley Town on Tuesday and scored the only goal in a 1-0 win over the promoted Southern Premier champions.

Last Saturday the Whites drew 1-1 at Arlesey Town – triallist Barry Hayles firing them in front only for the Southern Premier hosts to level almost immediately.

City, who hosted Premier League club Reading today, travel to Poole Town on Tuesday, and welcome Swindon Town to the Ray Mac next Friday, August 3. Entry to home friendlies is £10 adults, £6 students, £3 11 to 16-year-olds, £1 under-11s.

EMAIL NON-LEAGUE PICTURES TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football



QUICK TO IMPRESS: Steffan Gaisie, left, fires Winchester City into a 1-0 lead against Basingstoke. The striker was expected to sign for Guy Butters' team today.

Non-league News

United cup stunner
WHITCHURCH United took the honours at the annual Dango Cup tournament played at Andover New Street. Having scraped past Thatcham Town Reserves on penalties in the semi-final, Jim Macey's men started as underdogs in the final against a Newbury Town side who had topped their division last term in the UHlsport Hellenic League.

Whitchurch trailed 1-0 at half-time before impressive new signing George Dallarda eventually put one past the Newbury keeper.

An excellent save by new keeper Tom Robinson kept Newbury at bay and, once Alex Dockree had nosed Whitchurch in front, it was all United in the final 15 minutes. Luke Walker made 3-1 late in the game, securing Whitchurch the silverware for the second time in three years.

"It was nice to pick up our first piece of silverware and I was very pleased with the way both games went," said Macey.

Sticking together
STOCKBRIDGE manager Stuart Thompson has resigned a number of last season's squad, including keepers Alan Ralph and Tony Frank, Jake Smith, Jake Freemantle and Gavin Burgess.

New names at the Sydenhams One club include centre-half Brad Stead, Ollie Yates and midfielder Lewis Alderman who has just been released by Oxford United.

Hamble boss search
GE HAMBLE FC have ventured into the world of under-14s' football and are seeking the services of an experienced manager. If interested, please contact GE's director of football on 07545 573145.

Season ticket deal
ADULT Sholing and Eastleigh season-ticket holders will get into the July 31 (7.45pm) friendly at the Boatmen's Silverlake Arena for a reduced price.

On production of a valid 2012/13 season ticket, Sholing and Spitfires fans will pay £6.50 rather than the full £8. Concessions are £5 and under-16s will get in free if accompanied by an adult.

The £1.50 adult discount also applies to Saints and Pompey season-ticket holders for 2012/13.

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

MICK Jenkins admits he "didn't know what to expect" when he first turned up at Winchester City.

But having worked with the club through the summer and recently agreed to join the management team in a football/commercial capacity, the challenge of helping the club establish themselves as a Southern League force is growing on him.

Jenkins has oodles of higher league experience to bring to the Winchester party following their promotion as Sydenhams Wessex champions.

Having spent four years managing Havant & Waterlooville alongside ex-Birmingham and Coventry City star Liam Daish, Jenkins went on to work for Weymouth, Dorchester and Bognor Regis Town before returning to Havant two years ago.

He was installed as director of football/director by his old club, but he didn't get the chance to do the job as he would have liked and came away last season frustrated by "the politics of it all."

At the time he would never have envisaged landing up at Winchester, but he admitted: "I'm definitely warming to it."

"When we played Worthing last Saturday (and beat them 7-0), the front play, the work ethic and the attitude of the players was outstanding."

"Hopefully I can help get Winchester on the map and do what I was supposed to be doing at Havant."

MICK WARMS TO CITY CHALLENGE

"At least Paul (City owner Paul McCarthy) has given me an opportunity to get back into football."

"I didn't know Paul before, but you have to give the man respect for putting money into the club for the last three years."

Jenkins, below, needs no introduction to former Tottenham and Portsmouth defender

Guy Butters who, as team boss, guided City back to the Southern League.

"I know Guy ever so well going back to his Pompey playing days," he said. "I met him through friends of mine like Knightsy (Alan Knight),

Andy Awford and Neil Sillett and have been

involved in various Legends games playing with him, against him and for him."

"Wherever I've been in football I've worked with knowledgeable people like Liam Daish at Havant, Steve Claridge at Weymouth, Steve Johnson at Dorchester and Andy Awford at Bognor. I see Guy in that mould, too, and look forward to working with him."

As well as trying to raise funds for the club, Jenkins is using his vast network of contacts to bring in quality new players.

One, striker Steffan Gaisie, has already proved a smash hit as a trialist and was expected to sign for the club following today's friendly at home to AFC Bournemouth.

Having scored in the 7-0 demolition job on Worthing, Gaisie - formerly of Southend, Havant and Bishops Cleeve - found the net again when Blue Square Bet South club Basingstoke Town visited on Tuesday.

City twice took the lead against Jason Bristow's beaten play-off semi-finalists, but were eventually seen off 3-2 as ex-AFC Totton striker Stefan Brown bagged a late winner.

McCarthy, though, was more than happy with the performance.

"We switched things in the last half-hour, making several changes, and looked a bit disorganised. But for that, we would have won the game," he enthused.

"Our starting 11 - minus Michael Charles who had the flu - looked superb."

Winchester got their noses in front on 37 minutes when Gaisie finished well following a bad mistake by Town triallist Keon Mendoza.

Ex-Saints and Eastleigh wideman Jordace Holder-Spooner levelled on the hour and was soon in the thick of the action again, crossing for another ex-Spitfire Shaun McAuley to head wide.

City regained the advantage on 73 minutes when Brazilian Carlos Geteski, who played for Lymington Town last season, seized the chance to smash home.

Conor McCarthy got the unfortunate last touch as Matt Warner's cross forced an own goal to make it 2-2. Then, seven minutes from time, ex-Stag Brown produced a clever finish to flick home Stuart Lake's back-post header.

MORE NON-LEAGUE COVERAGE ON PAGES 12-15

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Tickle heads for exit
TEAM Solent's Will Tickle has admitted his time with the Sydenhams One club could be over.

The left winger, a third year student who has spent three years with Solent, believes 2011/12 could have been his last with the Southampton Solent University side, writes **GARY PETERS**.

"We've had big success in the three years I've been here and I've given my all," he said. "It feels as if there is unfinished business after coming so close to promotion last season, but I've done all I can. Maybe if we'd achieved promotion I might have stayed."

"I remember in my second season when the plans came out for Test Park. They were conditional on us getting promoted from the Hampshire Premier League which we did, and we've pushed on since then." Tickle, pictured above, is currently training with last season's beaten Blue Square Bet South play-off semi-finalists Basingstoke Town and is hoping to catch the eye of manager Jason Bristow.

He said: "I was proactive and went along for a trial day a few weeks ago. The club asked me to stay on and train and it has been quite a big jump up from Wessex One."

Dan dares for title

DANNY Dolan, manager of Sydenhams One club Tadley Calleva, believes he has built a potential table-topping side. Calleva had a torrid 2011/12 season, finishing second from bottom after losing 22 of their 34 games. But Dolan says a spate of new signings and a revamped clubhouse should help turn fortunes around.

"The clubhouse finally opened on June 9 which is massive for the club and the community," he said.

"The club's really moving forward. We have a good youth team as well. All in all, we are going in the right direction."

Dolan has captured **Whitchurch** midfielder **Matt Aslett**, central midfielder **Scott King** from Team Solent, and proven goalscorer **Ed Hall** from AFC Aldermaston. **Hartley Wintney** defensive midfielder **Nick Kingston** has also climbed aboard to replace **Callum Bush**.

Killick moves to fill Cann void

TOM Killick has moved to boost Poole Town's firepower following the galling loss of Dan Cann to injury.

With Cann requiring major knee surgery that could keep him out for the whole of next season, Killick has brought Alex Baldacchino and Luke Burbidge into the Tatnam fold in preparation for the Evo-Stik South & West season.

Diminutive forward Baldacchino joins the Dolphins on dual registration terms, with parent club Havant & Waterlooville having first call on his services.

He had a brief spell on loan at Poole towards the end of last season following a prolific stay at New Milton Town for whom he banged in 28 Wessex goals to finish third in the Sydenhams Premier scor-



ADDED FIREPOWER:
Tom Killick.

ing charts.

Burbidge also featured in the top ten Wessex scorers after bagging 22 goals for Simon Browne's Hamworthy United. His move to Poole has disappointed Blackfield & Langley boss Ashley Vickers who had hoped to sign him.

Killick has also swooped for 18-year-old right-back Jordan O'Donnell, who had spells with youth football with

Portsmouth, Eastleigh and Salisbury City.

"We were a little bit low on numbers, but we're gradually building it up," said the Dolphins boss.

"We have some good options up front, but I want to bring in someone who has played at a higher level to give us a real focal point."

"It's difficult though because that type of player is in very short supply, which we've already found to our cost this summer."

Killick revealed he was hopeful of signing striker Lee Chudy from Hamworthy United. He has also been running the rule over Bournemouth Poppies wide-man Fawzi Saadi and Salisbury City academy goalkeeper Michael Weatherall.



NEW RECRUIT: Alex Baldacchino, right.

JORDACE GETS HIS TIMING RIGHT FOR BASINGSTOKE

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

JORDACE Holder-Spooner was criticised by his last manager, Eastleigh's Ian Baird, for "not having a watch".

But the ex-Saint wasted no time making an impression for his new club Basingstoke Town by firing in a hat-trick on his first appearance for the north Hampshire side.

The 19-year-old was only on the field for 45 minutes last Saturday, but found the net three times as Town brushed aside a young Reading team 5-0 with Tim Sills and Delano Sam-Yorke also on the scoresheet.

It was a fine performance all round by last season's beaten Blue Square Bet South play-off semi-finalists.

But it was Holder-Spooner - who made just 12 starts for Eastleigh and was criticised for his time-keeping by Baird - who stole the show.

Stoke's assistant manager Kevin Braybrook is excited about the impact the former Southampton academy starlet could have on the team.

Braybrook, an ex-Saints academy coach who started last season as Baird's assistant/coach at



QUICK TO IMPRESS: Jordace Holder-Spooner, left, on the ball for Basingstoke Town during Tuesday's friendly at the Denplan City Ground.

Eastleigh, said: "I have known Jordace since he was 13."

"I signed him for Southampton and coached him there, so I know that he has got a lot about him and can change games."

"He is an exciting player with plenty of pace and power."

"He has played a lot out wide, but we think he can play down the middle because he is dangerous and

exciting, which he showed against Reading."

"He certainly gives us more options going forward."

"Tim Sills and Delano Sam-Yorke played a lot last season, but Jordace and Stefan Brown (signed from AFC Totton) give us options."

Basingstoke boss Jason Bristow missed last Saturday's game due to a UEFA A Coaching Licence course,

but Braybrook was pleased with the team's first pre-season outing.

"It was a good start," he said. "I thought we approached the game with the right mentality. We worked hard and passed the ball well when we could."

"There were good performances from some of the new guys and a good mentality in the group, so I am delighted."

Basingstoke face a tough start to the new campaign with a home game against Paul Doswell's Sutton United followed by trips to ambitious Eastleigh and Staines Town.

But Bristow is happy with the way his squad is shaping up.

"We got our business done early and hopefully that will benefit us," he said.

"I kept the vast majority of last season's squad together and added a couple in positions we needed to strengthen."

"The players had a taste of the play-offs and they are hungry for more. It hurt a lot to lose after all the hard work. That will stick with us - and hopefully push us on."

Holder-Spooner was again on target on Tuesday night, lofting a 20-yarder into the top corner as Basingstoke hit back twice from behind to triumph 3-2 at Winchester City.

Another of Stoke's summer signings, Stefan Brown from AFC Totton, bagged the late winner.

NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CALL WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

Non-league Football



DAVE DIAPER

YOU HAVE TO HAND IT TO HAMBLE ...

Diaper praise for Planemakers after Boatmen are humbled

SHOLING boss Dave Diaper heaped praise on GE Hamble after his side were outclassed 4-0 in Tuesday's friendly at Follands Park.

It was the Sydenhams League outfit who looked the more accomplished as Ashley Jarvis (2), Jamie Musselwhite and Rory Williams ganged up on their Southern League neighbours, **writes WENDY GEE.**

"You've got to give credit to Hamble, they were much the better team," admitted Diaper. "Musselwhite caused us problems and Jarvis and Williams were superb."

"I'm certainly a fan of their front two. Musselwhite and Jarvis gave our defenders more problems tonight than any Southern League team did last year."

"But it's no surprise to me. Musselwhite used to be with Sholing and we saw again tonight what a good player he is."

"I spoke to Ashley Jarvis during the summer and, if we could have met what he was looking for, we would have gone with him."

"A couple of other Hamble players like Jamie Barron and Scott Gilham also used to be with us, but couldn't get in our side. But they played well tonight as did the whole Hamble team."

"They remind me of how we used to be four years ago and will certainly be a force to be reckoned with in the Wessex Premier."

By Diaper's own admission



GOALS THREAT: Jamie Musselwhite, left.

Sholing were "never at the races".

But, in the Boatmen's defence, they have undergone several changes of personnel this summer and are trying to get to grips with a new style of play.

Following the departure of key targetman Kevin Gibbins to Blackfield & Langley, Diaper is advocating more of a patient, passing game rather than relying on the 'stick-ability' of a big man up front.

The transition, though, is not easy and Diaper admit-

ted: "The ball is coming back too quickly and we are missing Gibbo up top. He's left a big hole to fill."

"We're trying to get a passing game going and we'll see how it goes. But it may be that we will need to find ourselves another targetman if we decide to go back to playing that way."

"We had three opportunities to score in the first 20 minutes against Hamble and didn't take them and were 2-0 down at half-time. I took Lewis Fennemore and Tyzer

(Tyronne Bowers) off

because I'd said I would give everyone a run-out and, irrespective of the scoreline, I still did that. But Hamble were too good for us on the night."

"When we played Saints under-21s a couple of weeks ago everyone was up for it, but tonight we never showed up."

"I warned our lads not to take Hamble lightly because they've played together for a number of years and know each other's game."

"We've got to take it on the chin, accept the better team

won on the night, and move on."

"It's better it happened in a friendly than in the early rounds of the FA Cup."

Hamble's Danny Bowers, who has stepped up from co-manager to director of football, agreed with Diaper's analysis of the game.

"Sholing are used to playing in a certain way and tonight they looked a bit like a brand new team who had never played together before," he said.

"But they're a big club who have done magnificently in the Southern League and I'm sure Dave will get it right."

"From our point of view it was great to get the bragging rights over our neighbours."

"Jamie and Ashley were immense up top and (new goalkeeper) Ryan Gosney did what he had to do very well."

"Rory Williams and Jarvo were both offered the chance to go to Sholing in the summer, so it was nice for those two to score."

For Bowers, it was the first time he had seen the side in action since handing over his share of the managerial reins to former coach and player Dave Lewis.

"Dave and (co-manager) Paul Cotton will be really pleased with that performance," he said. "They've worked very hard to get the lads fit and we really do look like a strong outfit. I was very impressed."

"It's another major step towards getting us ready for the big Wessex kick-off at home to Fawley next Friday (August 3, 7.45pm)."

Non-league News

Last chance for Rico
FORMER AFC Bournemouth youth player Rico Wilson will enter the last-chance saloon at Dorchester Town upon his forthcoming release from prison.

The talented striker, pictured below, was jailed for 14 months in March after admitting an assault charge – his second spell behind bars in as many years.

But good behaviour has seen that term cut to little more than four months and, with the 21-year-old due to be released next week, the Magpies are set to offer him one last shot at redemption.

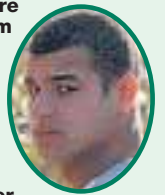
The decision may prove controversial, but the Dorchester hierarchy insist they will do all they can to help Wilson "turn his life around."

"Rico is due for release fairly soon and we have had to do some soul searching over it," revealed Phil Simkin, manager of the Blue Square Bet South club.

"The chairman (Shaun Hearn) and I have had long discussions and there will be mixed feelings over the decision we have made, but we have decided to give him one last chance."

"We will work very hard with him – not just on the pitch, but off it as well – to help him turn his life around."

"I will be slaughtered in some quarters for taking this decision, but you can't please everybody. We have made our decision and we will stand or fall by it."



Chamal U-turn
POWERHOUSE frontman Chamal Fenelon has returned 'home' to Horndean after signing for Gosport Borough earlier this month.

The 6ft 3in former Havant & Waterlooville man has signed a one-year contract for the Five Heads Park outfit for whom he scored six goals in 13 appearances last term.

Fenelon, who began his career at Millwall, was announced as a new Gosport signing at the beginning of July. But a change of heart means he will be playing Sydenhams Wessex football instead of joining Borough's new venture in the Southern Premier Division.

... but it's not all bad news for Sholing

CHRISTCHURCH boss Graham Kemp sang Sholing's praises following their recent pre-season visit to Hurn Bridge.

Although Priory lost 4-2, Kemp was struck by the professionalism of their old Sydenhams Wessex rivals who have spent the last three seasons gracing the Southern One South & West under long-serving manager Dave Diaper.

"Sholing are the most professional team we've played here," said Kemp.

"They were well presented, disciplined and polite. It was a pleasure to play them."

"They arrived on a 52-seater coach, all turned up in their tracksuits and their players and management showed us a lot of respect. They didn't give it 'little Wessex League side Christchurch' and they all stayed

around for drinks and a chat afterwards."

"I know you'd expect that, but some clubs don't do that after they've gone up a league."

"What impressed me about Sholing was that they prepared to play us in the same way they would have done to play Saints in a friendly."

"When we were in the Wessex League we had some run-ins with them, but the whole club seems to have changed. They have come on in leaps and bounds and Dave has changed as a manager as well. I take my hat off to them for that."

"Even (gritty midfielder) Tyronne Bowers was quite polite and well behaved!" he smiled.

Kemp also enjoyed last Saturday's visit to Poole Town, another former Wessex side making a big name for themselves in the Southern ranks.

Not for the first time, the pair slugged out an all-action goal fest with Christchurch leading 1-0, 2-1 and 3-2 before eventually succumbing 4-3 to the Dolphins.

"Sholing's organisation was exemplary and it was the same with Poole," said Kemp.

"But we played really well as a team and it was only individual mistakes that cost us goals."

"We made loads of friends down there and, like I said to Tom (Poole boss Tom Killick) afterwards, there can't be many teams who give them the sort of games we do. We've drawn 5-5 and 4-4 with them in the past and lost one game 7-0."

"It's because whenever we play them, we go for it."

Joe Kittle, Sam Griffin and Paul Roberts scored for

Christchurch, with Poole hitting back through Michael Walker, Marvin Brooks and Lee Chudy (2).

"Joe Kittle had a chance to win the game, but he scuffed his shot just before the ref blew up for full-time. It was good entertainment and we did so well that it felt like we'd won the game," said Kemp.

The only down side from a Christchurch perspective was that, yet again, it thrust Priory's production line of teenage talent firmly in the shop window.

Young gun Harry Cornick a recent target of Poole's – came off the bench in the second half having bagged both goals against Sholing.

"I know Tom's a fan of Harry Cornick and, also, (striker) Russell Cook and you have to keep your fingers crossed when you've played that well that the phone doesn't ring the next morning," he confessed.

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Non-league Football

Bubb plays his Cards right

BRADLEY Bubb has joined Blue Square Bet Premier side Woking on a season-long deal from Aldershot Town.

The 24-year-old Grenada international, pictured, proved a big hit on loan at Eastleigh last season, scoring ten goals in 18 appearances for Ian Baird's men.

He had previously had a spell on loan with Eastleigh's BSB South rivals Basingstoke Town last term, having played 11 times for League Two outfit Aldershot without scoring following his arrival from Farnborough.

"It will do Bradley the world of good to go out to Woking and get some games," said Shots boss Dean Holdsworth.

Bubb swaps places with Moses Ademola, who has left the newly-promoted Cards to join Eastleigh's quest to succeed them as BSB South champions.

The 22-year-old winger had been offered re-engagement terms by the Cards and his decision to snub the Surrey club and sign for the Spitfires instead stunned Woking boss Garry Hill.

Hill wished the player well, but said: "I find it very surprising that a player plays in a championship-winning side, informs us that he is ambitious and wants to play at a higher level - which we have offered him by getting into the Conference National - and then turns round and joins a club like Eastleigh.

"No disrespect to them, but they finished 47 points behind us, had an average crowd of 500 compared to our 1,900 and Moses lives about 20 miles from Woking and 65 miles from Eastleigh."



■ UPCOMING NON-LEAGUE AND FRIENDLY FIXTURES

Monday, July 30

FRIENDLIES
AFC Portchester v Pagham,
Downton v Eastleigh Res (7.45),
Fawley AFC v Brockenhurst.

Tuesday, July 31

FRIENDLIES
Basingstoke Town v AFC
Bournemouth (7.45), Braishfield XI
v FC Wellington (Stoneham Park,
7.00), Downton v Whitchurch Utd,
GE Hamble v Colden Common,
Poole Town v Salisbury City (7.45),
Sholing v Eastleigh (7.45).

Wednesday, August 1

FRIENDLIES
Christchurch v Wimborne (7.45),
Havant & Waterlooville v AFC
Bournemouth (7.45).

Friday, August 3

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE
Premier Division: GE Hamble v
Fawley AFC (7.45).
FRIENDLIES
Fleet Town v Eastleigh Res,
Salisbury City v Swindon Town.

Saturday, August 4

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC

Portchester v Hamworthy Utd,
Alton Town v Verwood Town,
Bemerton HH v Romsey Town,
Bournemouth Poppies v
Lymington Town, Downton v
Blackfield & Langley, Hordean v
Christchurch, Newport IoW v
Hayling Utd, Totton & Eling v
Fareham Town.

FRIENDLIES

SAINTS v Wolves (3.00),
Basingstoke Town v Brentford,
Braishfield v Hythe Aztecs
(Stoneham Park), Liphook Utd v
Eastleigh Res (4.00), Lyndhurst v
Fawley AFC Res (4.00), Wimborne
Town v AFC Totton, Winchester
City v Eastleigh.

Tuesday, August 7

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC
Portchester v Alresford Town,
Alton Town v Blackfield & Langley,
Christchurch v Fawley AFC,
Downton v GE Hamble, New
Milton v Moneyfields.
SYDENHAMS LEAGUE CUP
First round: Christchurch v
Fawley AFC.

FRIENDLIES

AFC Totton v Salisbury City (7.30),
Bristol City v SAINTS, Eastleigh v

Oxford Utd, Havant &
Waterlooville v Gosport Borough,
Parley Sports v Poole Town (7.00).

Wednesday, August 8

SYDENHAMS LEAGUE
Premier Division: Totton & Eling v
Newport IoW, Verwood Town v
Hordean.

Thursday, August 9

FRIENDLY
Braishfield v Comrades (Stoneham
Park, 7.00)

Saturday, August 11

FA CUP

Extra preliminary round:
Bemerton HH v Hamworthy Utd,
Winterbourne Utd v Moneyfields,
Hallen v Fawley AFC, Farnham
Town v Alresford Town, GE
Hamble v Whitchurch Utd,
Almondsbury UWE v Petersfield
Town, East Cowes Vics v Verwood
Town, Downton v Ash Utd,
Hayling Utd v Fareham
Town, Hordean v Brockenhurst,
Fleet Spurs v Totton & Eling, Alton
Town v Bradford Town, Ringwood
Town v Cadbury Heath,
Christchurch v Cowes Sports,
Romsey Town v Lymington Town,

New Milton Town v Newport (IoW),
Blackfield & Langley v AFC
Portchester, Bournemouth v
Pewsey Vale.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Senior Division: AFC Stoneham v
Clanfield, Colden Common v
Paulsgrove, Fleetlands v Overton
Utd, Hamble Club v Otterbourne,
Liphook Utd v AFC Aldermaston,
Liss Athletic v Locks Heath, OK
Southampton v Sporting Bisop's
Waltham, University of Portsmouth
v Bournemouth Sports,
Winchester Castle v Hedge End
Rangers.

Combination Division: Clanfield v
Locks Heath, Paulsgrove v
Bournemouth Sports, Sporting
BW v Liphook Utd Res.

FRIENDLIES

SAINTS v Udinese (12.00),
Chippenham Town v Basingstoke
Town, Bashley v Poole Town,
Braishfield Res v Bitterne Park
Hotel (Stoneham Park), Eastleigh v
Reading XI (3.00), Fleet Town v
AFC Totton, Gosport Borough v
Sholing, Lyndhurst v Bush Hill
(4.00), Salisbury City v
Portsmouth, Winchester City v
Andover Lions.

MAGPIES IN QUADRUPLE RAID ON CHAMPIONS

ALRESFORD Town have made a quadruple raid on Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League champions Liphook United.

Four of the Magpies' five summer signings have made the step up to the Sydenhams Premier Division from Liphook - including master marksman Steve Harding, **writes WENDY GEE.**

"Steve was Liphook's top scorer with over 80 goals over the last two seasons," said Alresford co-boss Danny Robinson, pictured right.

"Fingers crossed he can do it at the higher level.

"He's trained like a Trojan and was rewarded with his first goal for the club at Gillingham last Saturday.

"We've still got Dean Cole, Mike McEnery and Suhail Odeh, so we've got four good strikers. Competition for places is what we want because no one gets paid here."

With no financial clout to entice proven Wessex players to Arlebury Park, the Magpies set their sights on signing the pick of the bunch from the next level down.

Harding's left-back brother Dan has also been signed as cover for Joe Wright and the Liphook quartet is completed by goal-scoring winger Dom Cope, a schoolboy player with Portsmouth in his youth, and central midfielder Stuart Green who has previous Wessex Premier experience with Alton.

"We don't have the money to lure Wessex players away, so we've gone for lads who have won the Hampshire League twice with Liphook," Robinson explained.

"We watched Liphook five or six times last season. All you can do is ask these players if they would like to play higher and they all said 'yes'."

Alresford's fifth signing is central midfielder/centre half Luke Dempsey, who came through Sholing's youth system and has spent a season and a half with Romsey Town.

Having lost just four games between December and the end of last season, Alresford's top priority was

to keep their existing squad intact to try and improve on a best ever tally of 50 points as a top-flight Wessex club and victory in the North Hants Senior Cup.

Robinson and co-boss Tim Cole are delighted that ex-Hamble centre-back Lee Wood has signed on again and they are looking for more of the same from ex-Basingstoke and Alton central midfielder Carl Saunders, who was outstanding in the last ten games of 2011/12 after coming back from an ankle problem.

Warren Bentley has signed on again but, having finished university, he is now waiting to start a job as a teacher, which could take him anywhere.

"Warren's going to miss the start of the season anyway because he's away travelling," said Robinson.

"He's the only Alresford-based player we've got in the first team. His brother Jamie is in the reserves and his dad helps out behind the scenes.

"We don't know where Warren's teaching placement will be yet, so whatever we get out of him will be a bonus. He plays in midfield or just off the top man and whenever he's in the side we seem to play better."

With Bentley unlikely to be regularly available and Adrian De La Nougere moving to Australia, it leaves Dan Edwards as the only first-team player who was around when Robinson arrived at the club from Hamble ASSC Reserves nearly five years ago.

"Dan's an unsung hero. He's what you'd call an old-fashioned centre-half," said Robinson.

"Tim (Cole) came across to Alresford from Winchester about a year before me and it's refreshing to see we're now two of the longest serving managers in the league.

"We work well together, bouncing ideas off each other all the time"

Alresford kick off the new campaign away at freshly-promoted AFC Portchester on Tuesday, August 7 before travelling to Farnham Town in the FA Cup extra preliminary round a fortnight today (August 11).

Their first home league game is not until Hamworthy United's visit on September 1.



Non-league Football

Non-league News

Knight gives it a second Bash ...

WINGER Charlie Knight has returned to Bashley following a spell on loan at AFC Totton from Salisbury City last season.

Knight has signed a one-year contract with Bash after leaving Salisbury – the club he joined from the Recreation Ground two years ago.

The wideaman, pictured below, made 13 starts for Totton after joining them at the turn of the year, but barely featured in the last few games of the Stags' Southern Premier campaign.

He marked his return to Bashley colours on Tuesday as the Foresters put in a gutsy performance against a full-strength Crewe Alexandra side, losing 2-0.

Bash had stepped in late to play the League One new boys after Crewe's original fixture at Eastleigh had been called off.



New Bash boss Frank Gray said: "Charlie is a good acquisition with good experience at this level. He is happy playing behind the front man or a front two as well as playing on the left."

Other than Knight, the only new face in Bashley's starting line-up was former Cherries defender Brad Strickland, who was released at the end of last season.

Trialists who featured in the second half included Leighton Speechley-Price, a striker from Sholing, and Fawley AFC pair Lewis Ross and Matt Vining, but Gray remained tight-lipped on potential signings.

"Our plan when we came in was to have a fresh start and give the lads from last season a fair chance," he said.

"We haven't made any decisions yet and we'll give it a couple of weeks – a lot of players will be available in pre-season, so there's no great rush."

Bashley fought valiantly against a strong Crewe outfit, who starved them of possession. Mathias Pogba wasted a host of first-half chances before Byron Moore gave the Alex a 47th-minute lead and Pogba latched onto Strickland's poor backpass to complete the scoring midway through the second half.

GREAT PRE-SEASON MAKES UP FOR PITCH PROBLEMS

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

MONEYFIELDS will have a delayed start to the season because their re-laid Dover Road pitch needs extra time to settle.

Miles Rutherford's side had been due to kick off the new campaign at home to New Milton Town next Saturday (August 4) as they bid to build on an impressive fourth-placed finish last term.

But assistant boss Graeme Gee explained: "The pitch was dug up and was meant to be amazing by now, but it's not quite there yet. It's not awful, but it needs an extra week to get it to a decent standard."

"We've agreed with New Milton to play them at their place the following Tuesday (August 7) and our next game is away (to Winterbourne United) in the FA Cup which gives us some additional time to sort the pitch out."

Pitch worries apart, the Moneyfields management team have had a reasonably stress-free pre-season.

Barring one or two exceptions – notably striker Warren Hunt's return from Blackfield & Langley – they have not had to go out chasing new signings. The bulk have come to them.

"We've got quite a big squad signed up because this year players got in touch with us rather than the other way round," said former Newport IoW and Bashley midfielder Gee.

"Usually you're scratching your head trying to find players, but this year they've nearly all phoned us."

"We did go out and get Warren and also Alex Mirov who we've signed from Horndean. Alex is a left winger who could cause a few teams a bit of trouble."

"But the rest have all contacted us which is quite refreshing, particularly when we're competing with clubs who are paying money."

Adrian Brockway, another left-sided player, has moved over the border from Sussex, and Moneys



MONEYFIELDS RETURN: Striker Warren Hunt, right.

have taken a punt on bright, young striker Jason Parish who was previously on New Milton's books having played local football in Portsmouth.

Defender/midfielder Wes Chalmers, previously with Havant & Waterlooville and Fleet Town, has "got his mojo back" and signed and defender Shaun Kerridge is ready to return to Dover Road after a season out.

Winger/striker Bikram Singh, another blast from the past, is also back at Moneyfields from Pagham

and Bobby Scott, a former Saints apprentice, is training with the club following spells with Havant & Waterlooville and Blackfield & Langley.

With prolific marksman Hunt now back in the fold, it will be interesting to see how he combines with his 'replacement' Steve Hutchings, who bagged an impressive 28 goals in 31 Wessex starts last term.

"Steve was decent for us last year and I'd expect him to do the same this year if he stays injury and suspension-free," said Gee.

"Warren's a good character who also scores a lot and hopefully the two of them will get a significant amount of goals."

But he added: "There are other lads in the squad who will want to play up top. It's not a given that those two will always play."

● In another change to the schedule, Fawley AFC's home match against Horndean has been brought forward from Saturday, September 1 to Friday August 17 at the club's request.



VINCE RUSHER

VINCE Rusher pledged his future to Downton after inspiring the Robins to a 2-1 friendly win against Western League visitors Shrewton United last Saturday.

The former Andover and Eastleigh man had several offers to move elsewhere during the summer, but the influential playmaker has put pen to paper on another season at Wick Lane.

Rusher – a key contributor last term as the Robins finished a best ever sixth in the Sydenhams Premier – had a hand in both goals against Shrewton.

He scored the first himself on 12 minutes and then crossed for stand-in skipper Ben Smith to head home early in the second half.

Rusher pledges future to Robins

Downton's pre-season campaign went from strength to strength on Monday when they saw off lofty visitors Havant & Waterlooville 3-1 in front of a 101 crowd at Wick Lane.

Rusher was unable to take part after getting injured in the warm-up, leaving 20-year-old Jack Brooks to step in.

The youngster coped well, but it was midfielder Danny Finnigan who took centre-stage, surprising the Hawks with a stunning first-half hat-trick.

Goalkeeper Charles Aldridge played his part by saving a soft penalty by ex-Eastleigh winger Tony

Taggart on the half-hour, but the night ended disappointingly for the Downton stopper who was sent off late in the game for handling outside the area.

Shellshocked Havant introduced Jake Newton, Lewis Stockford and Steve Ramsey early in the second half, but they only managed to beat the outstanding Aldridge once when Christian Nanetti converted their second penalty of the game.

"We won't face sides of Havant & Waterlooville's calibre in our league, so it was a great result for us," said Downton boss Jeff

Softley, whose side kick off the new campaign at home to Blackfield & Langley next Saturday (August 4).

Despite the result, Softley was impressed by the Blue Square Bet South visitors.

"They're a quality side and were always busy," he said. "I would like to thank Stuart Ritchie and Barry Blankley for coming to us at short notice. We wish them all the best for the season ahead."

Downton, who have tasted pre-season victory over Devizes Town and Amesbury Town, are back in action at home to Eastleigh Reserves on Monday (July 30, 7.45).

Their final friendly is at home to Whitchurch United on Tuesday, July 31.

TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR LADIES' FOOTBALL



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Can Tom and Pete prevent China clean sweep?

CHINA will bid to go one better than four years ago and scoop all the medals in the Olympic diving pool over the next fortnight.

In Beijing only Matthew Mitcham denied them a home clean sweep after the Australian upset the odds to win in the men's 10 metre platform.

It is in the same discipline, diving's blue riband event, that China face the toughest test to win all eight gold medals on offer – a feat they managed at last year's World Championships.

World champion Qiu Bo is the man to beat on the highest board but faces stiff competition from local hopeful Tom Daley, who is set to be spurred on by a 17,500-strong crowd at the Aquatics Centre.

Daley enters the Games in career-best form after being crowned World Series and European champion in the past six months while he has also twice improved his personal best to cut the gap behind first-time Olympian Bo.

While the 18-year-old still believes he is fighting for silver behind Bo, Daley hinted that his experience of competing in Beijing could prove a decisive factor.

"Normally in diving silver is gold because the Chinese dominate everything," said Daley, who beat Bo to win the platform world title in 2009.

"But you never know what can happen in the Olympic Games.

"Qiu Bo hasn't done an Olympic Games. This is his first Olympic Games.

"There were so many lessons I learned from Beijing. For me the main thing coming into these Games is my mindset. I've got a lot more psychological experience.

"Qiu Bo I think has been unbeaten for the past couple of years individually. But in the past few years I've learned all the dives that he's got so we've got the same degree of difficulty.

"So it's just going to be about who performs it best on the day."

In the synchro competition, which takes place on Monday, teenage first-time Olympians Zhang Yanqian and Cao Yuan will also bid to fend off a strong field.

The duo did not compete at last year's World Championships to offer hopes for the likes of runners-up Patrick Hausding and Sacha Klein, from Germany, while Daley will team up with 2004 Olympic silver medallist, Southampton's Pete Waterfield, pictured above.

The diving competition will then finish on the penultimate day of the Games with the much-anticipated clash between Bo and Daley set to be further enhanced by the recently-retired Mitcham, who has been sidelined by injury for the past couple of years.



The hard work has been done ... it's time for Grays Anatomy!

SOUTHAMPTON hockey star Alex Danson has been writing a monthly column for the Sports Pink. Here, she talks about life in the Athlete's Village ...

THERE are already so many amazing athletes in the Athlete's Village. It is always so exciting to see them all, either in the food hall, games room, or even just sitting outside in the sun.

The best thing about Beijing was that everyone was on the same level. There is a perception of people that are really famous, and obviously they are, but when you are at an Olympics it's as if status doesn't matter.

I remember passing Paula Radcliffe and she straight away spotted that we were in GB kit and came up to us and asked what sport we were from and wished us good luck. It was so amazing. I will be happy to sit next to any member of Team GB. It will be so interesting to find out what their sport is and meet lots of different people.

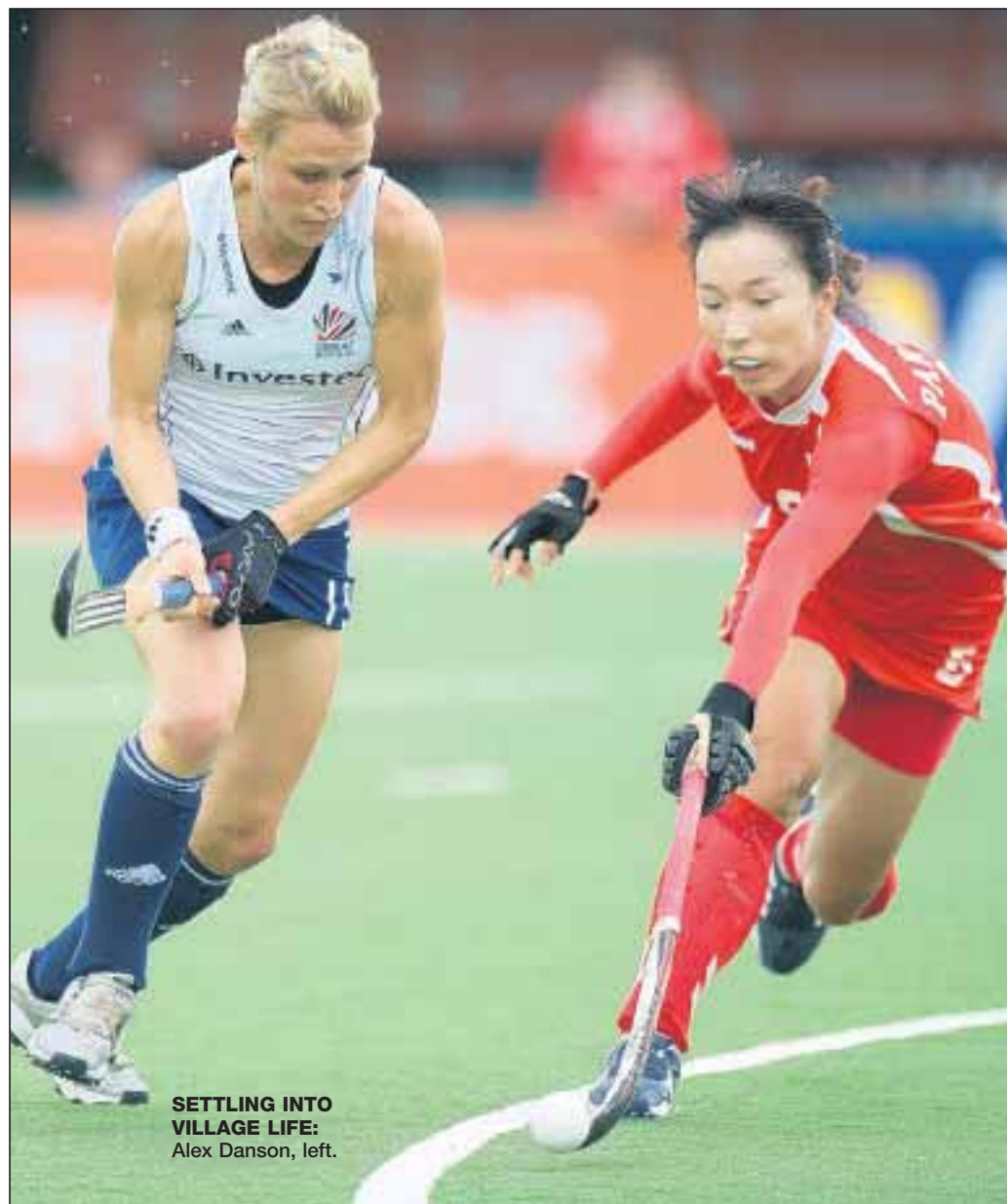
I already know a few people from other sports. One of the beach volleyball girls, Zara Dampney, and I were at camp together years ago. She Tweeted at me earlier this year and I couldn't believe that it was her. When we were at camp myself, Zara, and a guy called Garth, were almost inseparable, we got on so well. It has been so funny talking about it with her and it's so great that I will get to see her at the Olympics too.

I'm sharing my room with Beth Storry, who I shared with in Beijing. We are best friends outside of hockey as well so it is nice that we get to spend that time together.

I'm looking forward to being able to reminisce from Beijing. We've always roomed together, and I think it's great because it's really important to be comfortable with who you're rooming with.

People may not realise how much time we spend in our rooms at tournaments. All the hard work has been done in training, so actually when you're competing there is quite a lot off downtime. And most of that downtime is either spent refuelling at meals or in your room. So it helps when you both like the same kinds of films or TV shows. We've brought *Grays Anatomy* with us for the Games; we have taken it to other tournaments before and we both love it.

Shows like *24* are amazing, but can also be so addictive. Sometimes I think the more captivating shows are bad for tournaments because



SETTLING INTO VILLAGE LIFE:
Alex Danson, left.

obviously we need to rest, but after one episode we are so hooked that we want to put on the next episode. We took *Prison Break* with us to the World Cup and that was totally addictive. We had to be strict with ourselves and turn it off, even though we were itching to find out what happened next.

When it comes to the competition here at the Games, our main rival to begin with will be Holland because they are in our pool. That will definitely be our toughest game. They are number one in the world and are

going to be really tough. If we make the cross overs and semi-finals, the toughest opponent will probably be Argentina. We lost to them in the Champions Trophy final early this year, so it will be a challenge but I know the girls will be fully up for it.

The level of hockey at the moment around the world is so high, so every game we play is going to be tough and we know we are going to have to bring our A game if we are going to do well. The good thing is that we play our best when we are playing against really tough opposition, so

that is unbelievably exciting and I can't wait to get started.

● *Investec, the specialist bank and asset manager, support women's hockey from grass roots level through to the Great Britain national team. For more information on the women's GB team visit investec.co.uk or englandhockey.co.uk.*



MORE OLYMPIC PREVIEWS IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Cavendish rues anti-British alliance

WORLD champion Mark Cavendish claimed Great Britain have become victims of their own success after rival teams appeared content to see him lose the Olympic road race, rather than win it themselves.

Cavendish, pictured left, a winner of 23 Tour de France stages, was among the favourites for the 250-kilometre event, which included nine ascents of Surrey's Box Hill.

But his adversaries conspired against the British team and the 27-year-old from the Isle of Man fin-

ished 29th, 40 seconds behind, as controversial Kazakh Alexandr Vinokourov triumphed on The Mall, with Colombia's Rigoberto Uran second and Norway's Alexander Kristoff third.

"It seems like most teams are happy not to win as long as we don't win," Cavendish said.

"It's the story of our lives in cycling. It shows what a strong nation we are. We've got to take the positives from that and take it as a compliment."

Cavendish had described Britain's five-man squad as the "dream team", featuring Tour winner Bradley Wiggins, Chris Froome, David Millar and Ian Stannard.

All four had ridden in support of Cavendish when he won the World Championships road race in Copenhagen last September, but this task was tougher, according to Millar and Wiggins.

And despite phenomenal support from his four British teammates a late breakaway stayed clear and

Vinokourov, who served a two-year ban until 2009 for blood doping, won the sprint for the line.

Millar said: "We rode the race we said we were going to race and there was a slim chance that we were going to pull it off."

"When every other team is racing with the sole tactic to thrash our race up, it's very hard to do it."

"We expected that, we can't complain. Everyone knew what we were going to try to do and it was their job to try to derail us, which they did."

Foad's gr-EIGHT expectations



TEAM EFFORT: Great Britain's men's eight of (left to right) Alex Partridge, James Foad, Tom Ransley, Ric Eginton, Mohamed Sbihi, Greg Searle, Matt Langridge, Constantine Louloudis and Cox Phelan Hill.

We can still beat Germans to gold, reckons Foad

JAMES Foad and the British men's eight admit Olympic gold is currently hanging above the heads of the German crew after the opening heats at Eton Dorney Lake.

However, with the medals not being decided until Wednesday, Foad and co are confident they can navigate the repechage and use the extra race to upset the favourites, writes **BEN BAKER**.

Britain were drawn in the same heat as Germany, as the London 2012 rowing events officially got under way today but couldn't cross the line first to progress straight to the final.

Instead it was Germany who took victory, leading from start to finish to clock a time of 5:25.52 minutes

with Foad and co trailing just over two seconds behind in second.

Germany now advance straight to Wednesday's final with the British eight returning for the repechage round on Monday – not that Foad is overly concerned about it.

"I think a real positive from the race was certainly the second 1,000m where we managed to keep up with the Germans," said Southampton's Foad.

"I think that is something we have improved on from the World Cup season but I honestly don't think we are there yet."

"We have come here to win gold and gold only and at the moment we aren't quite there as we are still behind the Germans but we have certainly got something to go and build on."

Foad knows all too well the power

of the German eight having finished behind them at both his World Championship appearances since rowing in the British crew in 2010.

The 25-year-old won silver in New Zealand in 2010 and again in Slovenia in 2011 and cox Phelan Hill believes the atmosphere in London is comparable to that of the world's two years ago.

"The noisiest atmosphere I had ever experienced before this was at the 2010 World Championships in New Zealand," said Hill.

"I think the organising committee has done a solidly fantastic job of taking some of those lessons learned and bringing them over here."

"The noise is really quite something. Before I would have said 2010 was the benchmark but this has taken it to another level, having

stands on both sides really creates a wall of noise."

"Obviously right now we are thinking about the repechage and our first job is to get into the final and then we can start thinking about the final and the messages we are going the send to the other crews."

● **Lloyds TSB, proud supporter of Team GB and proud partner of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Get closer to the Games at lloydstsb.com/london2012.**



GB Khan break record

AMIR Khan has tipped Great Britain's boxers to break the nation's post-war record by winning "seven or eight medals" at the London 2012 Games.

Britain's ten-strong squad began competition at the ExCel Centre this weekend with high hopes of overhauling the 1956 squad who brought home five medals from Melbourne.

Among performance director Rob McCracken's squad of seven men and three women are a number of favourites in their respective events. That is in stark contrast to 2004, when a 17-year-old Khan was Britain's only boxing representative.

The Bolton youngster captured the public's imagination en-route to a superb silver in Athens, and he admitted there is a tinge of regret that he cannot be part of a home Olympics.

"There's definitely part of me that wishes I was competing in these Games," he said.

"If I had that chance it would be a dream come true, because to have the Olympics in England is massive. It's one of those things. I'm happy with what I've done anyway and happy with the decision I made because I've been a world champion, I've held two world titles. So I've achieved a lot up to now. But I would have loved to have gone to these Olympics."

"I'll still be a part of it because I'm an ambassador for the Games. It's an honour that they have not forgotten me and that they've kept me as part of the Olympics."

The likes of Luke Campbell, Anthony Joshua, Andrew Selby and Savannah Marshall are all expected to medal in style, and Khan agrees there is plenty of reason for optimism.

"Our team can do very well," he said. "We have ten qualifiers, seven guys and three women – one of the women (Marshall) is a world champion."

"The guys are amazing fighters. We have a very good chance of winning probably seven or eight medals. I think that's what we can aim for."

"Let's hope our guys do it. They work hard."

"I hope I can inspire them in any way possible because then, hopefully, they can make themselves big names and then one day turn professional and become financially secure for themselves and their families."



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Dampney's home pride

A PLACE in the second week of the competition is a realistic aim for south coast beach volleyball star Zara Dampney.

The Christchurch-born girl, below, partners Shauna Mullin, and their first Olympic game for GB is against Canada this Sunday.

The pair say their minimum aim is to finish in the top ten – as managed by Amanda Glover and Audrey Cooper the only previous time a British team played at Olympic level, in 1996.

But Mullin admits the rarefied occasion could give way to a surprise or two along the way.

"Anything can happen on the day," said Mullin, who with Dampney will also face Greta Cicolari and Marta Menegatti of Italy and Russia's Ekaterina Khomyakova and Evgenia Ukolova in the preliminary phase.

"We have played a lot of these teams before and we've played well against them.

"With the home crowd and our parents in the crowd, that's all you need to get one more ball, one more block, one more ace."



Nat's not the first ...

GERMAN hockey star Natascha Keller, who carried her nation's flag at the opening ceremony, is from a long dynasty of Olympic hockey players.

Her brother Andreas won gold in hockey at the 1992 Games in Barcelona 12 years before Natascha topped the podium with her team-mates in Athens.

Their father Carsten was a member of West Germany's winning team at the 1972 Games in Munich while grandfather Erwin won silver on home soil at the 1936 Olympiad in Berlin.

Brother Florian is the most recent family member to win a gold medal, having triumphed at the 2008 Games in Beijing.

Moose moves in

CANADA'S Olympic team have brought an unusual mascot to the Olympic village – a giant red model of a moose.

The moose was one of two mascots used by Team Canada at the Vancouver Winter Games in 2010 – its twin at the Whistler skiing site has been sold for charity.

The moose in London was known as Swagger during the Vancouver Games but will be given a new name following a Team Canada meeting.

● UNITED States gymnast Kyla Ross has discovered a new hobby to fill the time in between training for her first Games.

The 15-year-old was proudly showing off her collection of pin badges to journalists after training, with about 20 of them fastened to the lanyard holding her Olympic identification.

Adam Rant

OLYMPICS SPECIAL



SO, at long last, the waiting is over – let the Games begin.

It feels like a hundred years that we have been building up to London 2012, but finally it's time to start.

First things first.

Though Adam Rant is somewhat weary and jaded and cynical about the Games, mainly because of the incessant build-up, it should be a marvellous spectacle.

The venues looking truly amazing, hopefully the weather is set fair and the sport should be of the highest order.

Barring things outside of its control, London will host a brilliant games.

If we then move on to subjects like ticketing, legacy and so on, Adam Rant is certainly less positive, but for a fortnight let's just enjoy it.

Whether you like the Olympics being here or not, it has cost an absolute fortune.

There's nothing that can be done about it now and so it would be folly not to try and enjoy it and make the most out of it.

The chances of it returning in our lifetimes and remarkably slim.

Adam Rant has to hold his hands up and say he isn't actually a massive Olympics fan.

Athletics has never been my cup of tea.

There aren't many minority sports I enjoy watching in the Games and some of the others like tennis and men's football are best enjoyed in their regular settings, where they mean more.

Any Olympic sport should be the pinnacle – if it's not, then it shouldn't be in.

That said, when it comes to the question that you seem to get asked more than any other over the past couple of months 'have you got any tickets?', then, yes, I have.

Having missed out in the first round, there was a hurried application in the second phase to get some, pretty indiscriminately, to experience it.

That was hugely frustrating now knowing that there are still unsold tickets for other sports that might have been more interesting.

Still, Adam Rant will be attending volleyball – men's indoors before you ask and, no, I didn't pick them.

Hockey also, which I've never really liked, and the women's football final, which I am gen-



Wiggins is Mr Inspirational

HOW utterly fantastic if Bradley Wiggins can top off an incredible few months with an Olympic gold medal.

If ever there was an example of an inspirational athlete, then it is Wiggins.

What he has achieved in winning the Tour de France is quite incredible.

There is no justice in this world if he is not knighted for this remarkable feat, having already bagged three Olympic gold medals in the past too

uinely looking forward to.

It's hard to know what to expect – something genuinely wonderful, or a frustratingly congested trip with a load of bumbling idiots and tourists wandering about getting in the way.

Either way, it is important to try and make the most of this chance and also to support a major event taking

place in this country.

It is fantastic for England, and whether it be significant sporting events, cultural events or anything else, the more that's over here the better.

Hopefully the Olympics will prove to the world we can do things efficiently, with dignity and with our own dash of humour and charm as well.



SPECTACULAR: Last night's opening ceremony.

GREAT OLYMPIC MEMORIES – SEE CENTRE PAGES



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



at its best

by the way (which most people seem to have forgotten about).

Cycling, and particularly endurance cycling, is such a tough sport, not just physically but mentally as well.

But Wiggins has shown incredible strength to get through it and triumph and you would not bet against him adding more golds to his haul.

The cycling events are our best chance of adding a heap of medals to the Team GB name on the final table.

Dave

Brailsford, British Cycling's performance director and manager of Team Sky for whom Wiggins and Chris Froome rode in the Tour de France, also should be recognised more widely for his achievements.

He is surely amongst the most successful sports coaches, not only currently working in the country but that has ever been produced.

That reputation could be cemented still further at London 2012.

HISTORIC: Bradley Wiggins with his Team Sky support crew celebrate the Tour de France success.



Olympic hopeful Pete

It's our fault if Tom fails

IT'S with great hope but a little trepidation that Adam Rant will keep an eye on 'Tom Daley's progress.

Partly because in the synchro he dives with Southampton's

Waterfield, and the very best of luck to him.

But also because he is a fascinating character and his is a fascinating story.

You kind of want him to pull through and succeed, no matter how sickly sweet and media-trained he is.

That is probably because you know that, if he doesn't fulfil his talent, if he doesn't achieve what he should do, then it's partly us as his home country that are to blame.

We have focussed on him so intently, been so wrapped up

in this story of a little boy developing into a man and competing, that the money and the advertising and the media attention that has therefore been thrown at him is our own fault.

If anything derails him, it will be that.



BIG EATER: Michael Phelps.

I'll have what he's having ...

ADAM Rant has to confess to finding swimming a pretty boring participation sport.

It's not that he is bad at it, but staring at the same pool tiles for hours on end has never seemed a thrilling way to kill the hours.

However, he is seriously considering taking it up if he can eat like Michael Phelps.

As a keen exerciser, in Adam Rant's opinion the main reason to get out and be active is that you can then eat loads.

So imagine my pleasant surprise to discover

that if you exercise like Phelps you don't just have to eat a bit more, you can effectively eat like a pig each day.

For breakfast he has three fried-egg sandwiches, three chocolate chip pancakes, a five-egg omelette, three sugar-coated slices of French toast and a bowl of grits.

For lunch it's half a kilogram of pasta, two large ham and cheese sandwiches covered in mayonnaise and energy drinks and for dinner half a kilogram of pasta, pizza and more energy drinks.

If only swimming wasn't so damn boring.

BOOK of the WEEK

The Valiant Cricketer
The Biography of Trevor Bailey
By Alan Hill
Sportsbookofthefmonth.com price:
£14.44, saving 15% on rrp

Valiant. It's a word rarely aired in sporting circles nowadays.

In place of indomitable sportsmen, we must contend with those who feign injury, hoodwink match officials or deliberately deceive their paying audience.

Thankfully, the majority of professional sportsmen and women are not like this, but words such as 'pugnacious' and 'undaunted' appear to be disappearing from the sporting lexicon.

Trevor Bailey, who played 61 Tests for England and became only the second Englishman after Wilfred Rhodes to score 2,000 runs and take 100 wickets, was a plucky, doughty and courageous cricketer who delighted in his nickname of 'The Barnacle'.

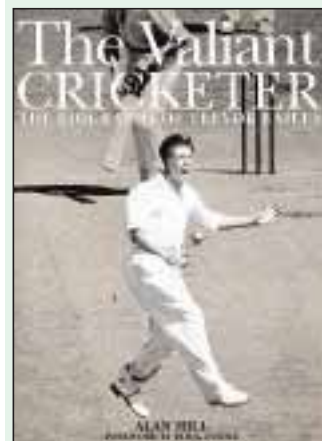
He attracted the sobriquet because when he was at the crease, it was nigh on impossible to get him out.

In the first Test against Australia at Brisbane in the 1958/59 Ashes series, Bailey scored 68 runs which took seven hours and 38 minutes to accumulate.

Incredibly, he faced 426 balls, but scored from only 40. He reached 50 in three minutes short of six hours.

This remains the slowest half-century ever scored in first class cricket.

If you needed a cricketer to wear down the opposition, the Barnacle was your man. While some of this engaging book's



comprehensive statistics highlight the extent to which he could 'drop anchor' when required, Trevor Bailey was more than a stone-waller.

His 7-34 against the West Indies at Sabina Park, Jamaica, remained the Test ground's best bowling figures for fifty years.

Many will remember Bailey as one of the voices of Test Match cricket where his post-match summaries were invariably succinct one-liners, a skill which prompted Christopher Martin-Jenkins to call him "the greatest distiller since Johnny Walker".

But away from cricket, he was one of life's all-rounders.

He trained and worked as a teacher and was part of Walthamstow's winning team that won the 1952 FA Amateur Cup, though it was in cricketing whites that he made his mark.

"The best before Botham" is how many have described Bailey, a man who revelled in difficult, rearguard situations.

His obduracy against the Australians at Lord's in 1953, when he helped save the match, enabled England to go on and regain the Ashes.

Trevor Bailey, who died last year in tragic circumstances, was a very special sportsman and gentleman for whom the word valiant was, as this fine biography shows, tailor-made.



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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"We are all vulnerable to age aren't we? It doesn't come without penalties" – Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, 70, admits he will have to curb some of his travelling.

"Every little landmark means something" – Alastair Cook brings up his 20th Test century on day one of the Investec series against South Africa, moving him up to joint fifth in his country's all-time list of Test centuries.

"It is clear that a fan subscribes to the campaign in order to see their team's star players, and then these stars are sold. They have every right to claim their money back. It is like a circus advertising elephants and lions on the ticket and then there aren't any" – Marco Maria Donzelli, of Italian consumer society Codacons, backs refunds for AC Milan season ticket-holders after the promotional campaign featured Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Thiago Silva, who were both then sold to Paris St Germain.



"I couldn't give any advice about the slopes but I just carried the bag and supported him each hole. Andres is a professional and he knows everything already. We worked together very well" – guest caddy Carlos Tevez, pictured above, is surprisingly upbeat about fellow Argentinian Andres Romero's closing 82 at the Open.

"I advise him to keep playing soccer because he is good at that" – Romero cannot foresee a permanent change of sport for Manchester City forward Tevez.

"It's almost a kind of disbelief that this is really happening. A lot of it is goose pimple stuff. When you come on there (the Champs-Elysees) and the roar, even when you finish last in the Tour. But to come on in the yellow jersey surrounded by the guys who have put me there, with all my family there" – Bradley Wiggins soaks up the atmosphere after becoming the first British rider to win the Tour de France.

1896: Officially regarded as the first modern Olympic Games, the 1896 Games attracted 241 athletes from 14 nations competing in nine sports. German wrestler Carl Schumann won four events.

1900: The 1900 Games were held across five months in Paris, involving 997 athletes from 24 nations. British tennis player Charlotte Cooper was crowned the first female Olympic champion.

1904: The St Louis Games were marred by the lack of much European involvement, and only 12 nations competed. The 16 sports on the programme included lacrosse, roque and tug of war.

1908: The 1908 Games were due to be held in Italy until the eruption of Mount Vesuvius prompted London to step in. In the Games' most famous moment, Dorando Pietri was disqualified from the marathon after being helped over the finish line.

1912: The 1912 Stockholm Games saw the use of electric timing devices for the first time. Boxing was banned by the hosts, and a Greco-Roman wrestling bout between Martin Klein and Alfred Asikainen lasted 11 hours and 40 minutes.

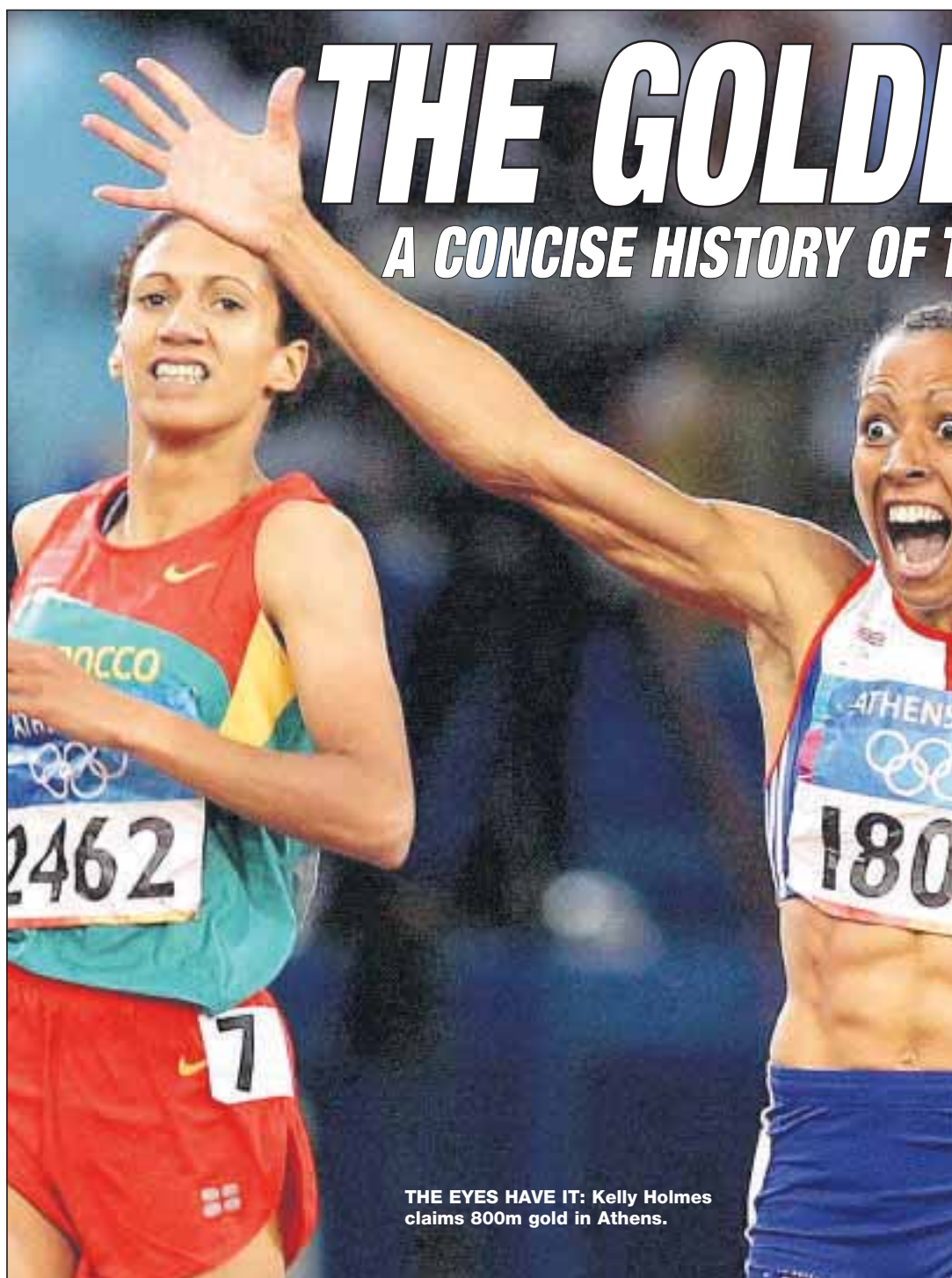
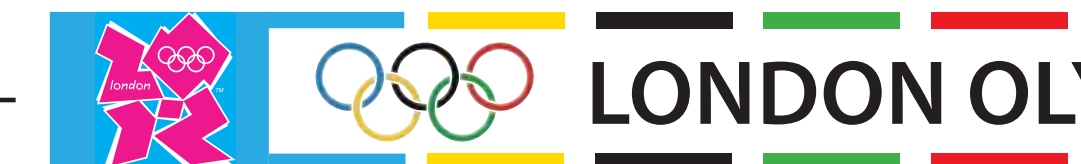
1920: Although the 1920 Games were held in Antwerp, Belgium, one of the sailing events was staged in Holland. Finnish distance runner Paavo Nurmi was the star of the Games, winning three golds and one silver medal.

1924: The 1924 Paris Games was the first to use a standard 50 metre swimming pool. Nurmi once again dominated the middle-distance races, winning the 1500m and 5,000m titles despite there being only an hour between them.

1928: The Olympic flame was lit for the first time at the Amsterdam Games. Women's athletics and gymnastics figured for the first time. Tarzan actor Johnny Weissmuller won two swimming gold medals.

1932: Held in Los Angeles during the global Great Depression, the Games attracted only 37 nations, and was not attended by US president Herbert Hoover. The winners' rostrum appeared at a Games for the first time.

1936: Controversially contrived by the Nazis to showcase Aryan supremacy, the Berlin Games were spectacularly headlined by American Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals in sprints and the long jump.



THE EYES HAVE IT: Kelly Holmes claims 800m gold in Athens.

1948: The post-War London Games were nicknamed the 'Austerity Games'. They comprised 4,104 athletes from 59 nations. Dutch sprinter Fanny Blankers-Koen won four athletics gold medals.

1952: The 1952 Helsinki Games saw the respective debuts of the Soviet Union and Israel. Hungary, led by Ferenc Puskas, won football gold while Emil Zatopek triumphed in the 5,000m, 10,000m and marathon.

1956: The Melbourne Games saw a violent water polo clash between Hungary and the Soviet Union, which the Hungarians won. The equestrian events were held in Stockholm five months earlier, due to quarantine regulations.

1960: Cassius Clay won the lightweight boxing gold medal at the Games in Rome, while Ethiopia's Abebe Bikila became the first black African Olympic champion when he won the

marathon running barefoot.

1964: The Tokyo Games saw the introduction of judo and women's volleyball. Bikila retained his Olympic marathon title, and Joe Frazier won heavyweight boxing gold. Tokyo was the last Games to use a cinder track for athletics.

1968: The Mexico City Games saw the famous 'Black Power' salutes by 200m medallists Tommie Smith and John Carlos, Bob

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OLYMPICS 2012



TEN YEARS

THE OLYMPIC GAMES ...



Beamon set his world long jump record at 8.90m, and Dick Fosbury won the high jump with his 'Fosbury Flop'.

1972: The Munich Games were overshadowed by the terrorist massacre of 11 Israeli athletes and coaches. Mark Spitz won seven swimming golds, and the USSR beat the United States in a highly controversial basketball final.

1976: Nadia Comaneci was the undoubted star of the Montreal Games, claiming seven perfect scores of 10.0 and winning three gymnastics golds. For the first time in Games history, the hosts, Canada, won no golds.

star of the Montreal Games, claiming seven perfect scores of 10.0 and winning three gymnastics golds. For the first time in Games history, the hosts, Canada, won no golds.

1980: The Moscow Games were marred by a boycott by the US and a number of other nations protesting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Sebastian Coe held off Steve Ovett to win a classic 1500m final.

1984: The Soviet Union responded at the Los Angeles Games by leading a 14-nation Eastern Bloc boycott. Carl Lewis won four gold medals and the women's marathon was staged for the first time.

1988: Ben Johnson stormed to 100m gold at the Seoul Games but was subsequently banned for use of steroids. Florence Griffith-Joyner set her 100m and 200m world records, which still stand. Roy Jones was robbed of Olympic boxing gold.

1992: The end of the Cold War brought the first boycott-free Games since 1972. Germany sent a unified team, and South Africa was allowed to compete as the country began to move towards democracy. The Games saw the debut of the US basketball 'Dream Team'.

1996: The Atlanta Games were mired in organisational difficulties, and International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch stopped short of continuing his tradition of describing the Games as the 'best ever'. Beach volleyball appeared for the first time.

2000: At the Sydney Games, Steve Redgrave won his fifth consecutive Olympic rowing gold medal, Ian Thorpe emerged as the star of the pool, and Cathy Freeman delighted her home fans by winning the 400m final.

2004: The Games returned to Athens but were marred by the withdrawal of top Greek sprinters Konstantinos Kenteris and Ekaterini Thanou over a drug test row. Kelly Holmes claimed double gold in the 800m and 1500m for Great Britain.

2008: The Olympic flame was carried to the summit of Mount Everest en route to the 2008 Beijing Games. Usain Bolt ran a blistering 9.69 seconds in the 100m, and Michael Phelps eclipsed Mark Spitz's record with eight gold medals in the pool.

LIGHTNING BOLT: Usain Bolt was one of the stars of the Beijing Games.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I'm just all numb at the moment. He's a great friend of mine. Obviously we both wanted to win very badly for different reasons and I really feel for him. It's the nature of the beast. That's why we are out here. You win, you lose and it was my time" – Ernie Els comes to terms with winning the Open at Royal Lytham after Adam Scott blew a four-stroke lead on the final day.

"I have always wanted to own a horse because I love the smell of them. That makes the venue extra special for me" – USA beach volleyball legend Misty-May Treanor on competing at Horse Guards Parade in central London.

"My Mrs gets a bit annoyed because when we see archery in the films because I'm always criticising the techniques. When Robin Hood is shooting two arrows at once I'm thinking 'that would never happen'." – Britain's number one archer Larry Godfrey, pictured below, has issues with the portrayal of his sport in the movies.



"We were angry because our players were shown as if they were from South Korea which affects us very greatly" – North Korea women's football coach Gun Sin Ui gives his view on the flag mix-up which saw the South Korean flag displayed on screen next to the images of his players.

"It is almost impossible to put into words" – Stephanie Houghton describes her feelings after scoring the first ever goal for a GB women's football team in the Olympics.

"I like it. If I had it my way I'd go back to old school when we were all wearing banana hammocks!" – US swimmer Ryan Lochte is delighted that performance enhancing suits have been outlawed.

"I don't want any bother with Bayern, but I am annoyed and very bemused that Jupp Heynckes has indirectly brought the Bender issue up in public. I am astonished that Jupp is suddenly able to write text messages" – Bayer Leverkusen general manager Wolfgang Holzhauser reacts angrily to Bayern Munich boss Jupp Heynckes' perceived 'tapping up' of Germany midfielder Lars Bender.

ON 2012 COMPETITORS GO TO dailyecho.co.uk



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



Sports Quiz

- 1 Other than Open champion Ernie Els, three South African players have won one of golf's majors in the last five years. Name two.
- 2 Who was the first cricketer to make a triple-century in a Test?
- 3 Ryan McGoldrick plays for which Stobart Super League side?
- 4 Kathryn Fudge will represent Great Britain in which Olympic sport?
- 5 Midfielder Jamie Ness has left Rangers for which Barclays Premier League club?
- 6 On which course did golfer Ernie Els win the 2002 Open Championship?
- 7 Prior to Hashim Amla, who was the last cricketer to score a Test triple century in England?
- 8 Robbie Grabarz will represent Great Britain at the London Olympics in which athletics event?
- 9 The major league baseball team nicknamed the Brewers hail from which American city?
- 10 Danny Kirmond is the captain of which Stobart Super League team?
- 11 Chelsea have signed Oscar from which club in his native Brazil?
- 12 Bradley Wiggins was born in which country?
- 13 In which year did Ernie Els win his last major tournament prior to the 2012 Open?
- 14 AC Milan have offered to refund season-ticket holders after selling which two players to Paris St Germain?
- 15 Which US city is home to Lions (NFL) and Tigers (MLB)?
- 16 New Norwich signing Robert Snodgrass began his career at which club?
- 17 Doug Bracewell plays international cricket for which country?
- 18 Hannah Miley represents Great Britain at which Olympic sport?
- 19 Racing driver Heikki Kovalainen competes for which Formula One team?
- 20 Steffon Armitage plays for which Top 14 rugby union side in France?
- 21 France international Franck Ribery has played for which Turkish team?
- 22 Who is the leading batsman in the ICC Test rankings?
- 23 NFL franchise the Ravens are based in which US city?
- 24 Who are the only French side apart from Toulouse to have won the Heineken Cup?
- 25 Who was the last male golfer to win two majors in the same year?

ANSWERS

1 Trevor Immelman (Masters, 2008), Louis Oosthuizen (Open, 2010) and Charl Schwartzel (Masters, 2011); 2 Andy Sandham (England); 3 Hull FC; 4 Handball; 5 Stoke; 6 Middlesbrough; 7 Grafton; 8 High jump; 9 Milwaukie; 10 Wakefield Wildcats; 11 Internazionale; 12 Belgium; 13 2002 (Also the Open); 14 Thiago Silva and Zlatan Ibrahimovic; 15 Detroit; 16 Livingston; 17 New Zealand; 18 Swimming; 19 Caterham; 20 Toulouse; 21 Galatasaray; 22 Kumar Sangakkara; 23 Baltimore; 24 Brive (1997); 25 Padraig Harrington (2008).

Simon Carter
simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk
SPORTS EDITOR

THE greatest sporting show on earth is upon us.

And it's only right that David Beckham is not playing an active role in the London Olympics.

One of the biggest pre-Games stories centred around the fact that Stuart Pearce failed to include the most capped outfield player in England's history in his 18-man GB squad.

Surely he deserved his place for all the work he did away from the cameras, meeting and greeting and shaking hands with various powerful figures to help Great Britain win the Games seven years ago?

If that was the case, then Seb Coe should be a shoe-in for the 1,500m instead of Ross Murray or Andy Baddeley.

Beckham has had his day in the sunshine – lots of them – and it was the correct decision on footballing grounds alone not to select him.

Pearce's decision will also enable the Olympics to be played out in a Becks-free zone.

The media spotlight on him, and the GB football team, would have no doubt reached saturation point had he been part of the squad.

The column inches devoted to him would have been out of all proportion to reality.

The reality should be that the Olympics is about the track and field athletes, the cyclists, the rowers, the divers.

Not about pampered footballers with millions in their bank accounts who train a few hours a day before sorting out their next lucrative sponsorship deal.

I don't really think football should be an Olympic sport. After all, the players aren't short of major international competitions to compete in.

For the same reason, I'm not too comfortable about tennis being an Olympic sport either.

We've just played Wimbledon, and what a great tournament it was.

Now most of the same top players are coming back a few weeks later to play each other again on the same courts.

Golf is being introduced at the next Games, in Rio, and I can't see the point in that one either.

The Olympics transcends all other competitions for most sports.

Legends can be created in seconds, and that is not the case with some World Championships.

Take Sir Steven Redgrave.

The Olympics football, or tennis ... they are about our unsung athletes

What's he most famous for? A total no-brainer question. Winning five gold medals at five different Olympics.

Who, among the average sports fan, remembers the fact he won nine World Championship medals?

Then there's Sir Chris Hoy.

He might have 11 World Championship

NOT ABOUT YOU, DAVE: Beckham isn't the spirit of the Olympics.



cycling gold medals, but he was not knighted for any of them, or nor did he win the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award in 2008 for any of them either.

No, those rewards came as a result of winning triple gold in the Beijing Olympics.

It is the Olympics where performances can come to define an athlete's career.

That is not

the case with Roger Federer, if he was to win the Olympic tennis title in the next few weeks.

I watched a fascinating documentary recently, 'The race that shocked the world', telling the story of the infamous men's 100m final in Seoul, 1988.

Ben Johnson, after winning in a world record time, was stripped of the gold a few days later after failing a drugs test.

It was, and remains, the greatest drugs controversy in Olympic history.

Probably sporting history. Would the Canadian's name be swathed in such

THE BEST COVERAGE OF HAMPSHIRE OLYMPIANS IS THE DAILY ECHO



LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



are not about

YEARS OF TRAINING:

Southampton's Peter Waterfield and his synchro colleague Tom Daley.



notoriety if he had tested positive in a World Championship final?

There was also another 100m-related programme on the same evening, featuring the main contenders for this year's Olympic crown.

World record holder Usain Bolt could be under pressure from his fellow Jamaican and training partner, Yohan Blake, while a third Jamaican – Asafa Powell – still harbours his own dreams.

The programme showed them in training, and it was then that the spirit of the Olympics was most on show.

The spirit of the Games is in the countless hours of training, well away from the public gaze, the cameras and the reporters.

For the sprinters, it's the time spent pounding down a 100m strip of land as fast as they can, turning round, walking back again, then doing the same.

For the swimmers, it's up and down a pool in a straight line.

Over and over and over and over again.

The following day, over and over and over and over again.

In a straight line, in the same pool.

Same for the divers, like Southampton's Pete Waterfield and Tom Daley. Climb up the steps, dive into the water. Get out of the water, climb up the steps, dive into the water.

Repeat over and over. Same for the rowers. Up and down in a straight line, over and over again.

Rebecca Adlington and her Olympic peers must complete hundreds of thousands of lengths of a pool every year.

And all that training is centred on just a few minutes of actual competition – the Olympic final.

You can say that Andy

Murray's training must be repetitive – hitting a small ball over a net – and you'd be partly right. But his matches are never the same, he doesn't monotonously move up and down, up and down, up and down.

There are tactics, there are opponents moving you around court, there are numerous different shots to conjure up in a split-second – lob, volley, backhand, forehand, slice, passing shots.

STAR SWIMMER:

Michael Phelps.



In a swimming pool, there are no such variations, no huge amount of tactics. You can hardly throw in a few slower strokes, can you, like a fast bowler can at times reduce his pace in cricket?

When you stop to think about it – I mean, really think about it – then the sacrifices, the sheer bloody-mindedness and determination, the amazing mental strength, of athletes such as Adlington, Michael Phelps, Sir Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent, are truly phenomenal.

These are the people who deserve their moments in the sunshine at an Olympic Games, the chance that only comes around every four years.

The people who are often up and training, at the crack of dawn when professional footballers are still in bed.

These are the people the British public should salute, to thank for their remarkable commitment to what might be a minor sport in the whole scheme of things.

We might well forget about them as soon as the Olympics are over and the Premier League kicks in again with a heady recipe including dollops of greed, racism and referee-baiting.

But, for the moment, step forward the likes of New Forest handball player Dan McMillan.

Step forward, Southampton Academy diver Stacie Powell, who has combined training for her ultimate sporting moment with studies in astro-psychics at University.

Step forward James Foad, who has racked up miles and miles and miles of training – and driving from Southampton to Surrey and back again – in the last few years as he aimed for a shot at Olympic glory.

Step forward all the other men and women from sports that hardly ever matter to the public.

These are your moments.

'Cool' to see Gates

THE fortunes amassed by the likes of Andy Murray and Lleyton Hewitt were dwarfed by their fellow player at Wimbledon's Aorangi practice courts on Friday.

Hitting alongside the tennis stars preparing for the Olympics was Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates, pictured, one of the world's richest men.

Laura Robson found out she will be playing in both singles and doubles after the withdrawal of Croatia's Petra Martić but she seemed more excited by the presence of Gates.

Robson tweeted: "Hitting on the court next to Bill Gates. Cool."



Too busy

USAIN Bolt is determined to be on his best behaviour at the athletes' village.

The world's fastest man promised there would be no parties and also claimed none of the 150,000 condoms which have been delivered to the village would be for him.

He said: "I didn't know they were handing out condoms in the village. I was in Beijing (four years ago) and I didn't see any. This is news to me. My schedule is way too busy."

Hair raising

ITALIAN fencer Aldo Montano has paid a tonsorial tribute to the host nation of London 2012 with a hair-raising look.

Montano, 33, turned up at Rome's Fiumicino airport on Thursday with a haircut bound to attract admiring glances in the UK.

Shaved into the back of his head were the words "God Save the Queen", written in English.

Help mum

MALAYSIAN Nur Suryani Mohd Taibi is due to give birth in early September, yet is competing in the 10-metre air rifle shooting.

The 29-year-old former World Cup silver medallist is hoping she can be inspired by her pregnancy, rather than distracted, but the kicking can be off-putting.

"When baby kicks, I will breathe in and breathe out and try to calm myself down and talk to baby 'Behave yourself and help mummy to shoot'," she said. "And luckily she understands, she always understands."

New record

THE BBC's veteran sports commentator Barry Davies is broadcasting from his 19th Olympic Games.

Davies is on hockey duty for the BBC in London, twenty-four years after he famously uttered the line "Where are the Germans? And frankly, who cares?" when Great Britain beat West Germany to the men's gold medal in Seoul.

Davies has commented on 11 previous summer Olympics – his first was at Mexico City in 1968 – and seven winter Games.

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Youth Football



READY TO GO: The Chamberlayne and Chamberlayne Athletic Under-7 teams, left.

Picture order no: 14784683



SUPER REDS: Hedge End Youth Stars, right.

Picture order no: 14784620



SHINING KNIGHTS: Southbrook Knights Under-7s.

Picture order no: 14784752



STARS IN STRIPES: Hedge End Youth Comets Under-7s.

Picture order no: 14784732



SET TO SPARK: Sarisbury Sparks' Black and Gold Under-7s teams.

Picture order no: 14784678

BEST WESTON



WESTON Sports Youth FC's annual six-a-side tournament was a roaring success.

The 28th running of the tournament, held at Weston Lane playing fields, invited a variety of age groups from the under-sevens through to under-13s, **writes RICKY PRICE.**

A total of 62 teams were involved, the under-sevens – some getting their first taste of match experience – kicking off last weekend's event.

Hedge End Blues won the under-12 section, while Bitterne took the honours in the under-ten age group.

HEY Rockets took glory in the under-nine age group, while the under-13

silverware was decided by a penalty shoot-out – Jersey side St Clements defeating Pirelli.

Weston Sports Youth secretary Debbie Turner was highly thankful to all the volunteers who made the weekend run so smoothly. She said: "Spirits were high and smiles were upon the faces of all the players. My thanks to everyone who helped with the tournament."

WONDER OF A GOAL: A Southbrook Strikers forward sees his shot go in.

Picture order no: 14784746

CAN'T LOOK: Testwood United are almost unable to watch the penalty shootout. And they won it!

Picture order no: 14784886



Youth Football



NEAR THING:
Testwood United's keeper watches the ball hit the bar in the shootout
Picture order no: 14784874



WIZARD OF DRIBBLE: Southbrook Strikers (blue) take on Hedge End Youth Comets.
Picture order no: 14784631



ON THE RUN : Hedge End Youth Stars (Red) U7 versus Chamberlayne. *Picture order no: 14784811*

ON TOP OF THE ACTION: A Weston Sports player almost ends up in the crowd as he is tackled by a Hedge End Whites opponent.
Picture order no: 14784707



ON THE RUN : Testwood United (red/blue) versus Testwood Youth.
Picture order no: 14784691



BATTLE FOR THE BALL : Hedge End Whites (blue) versus Weston Sports. *Pic order no: 14784893*



BATTLE FOR THE BALL : Hedge End Youth Stars (red) versus Chamberlayne.
Picture order no: 14784671.

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As summer has arrived many of us are packing our bags excitedly in anticipation of our annual break. Holidays are a time for relaxing but for pet owners they inevitably bring the potentially stressful dilemma of what to do with our four-legged friends while away. However, there are so many options now available that every pet owner should be able to find the right solution for them.

Many owners opt to leave their pets home and have a friend or neighbour care for them, which can be less stressful for cats especially and there is less risk of escape or straying. However, if

someone is simply popping in, it is imperative to ensure pets will receive proper attention to all their care requirements – not just feeding and checking water bowls but daily exercise for dogs and frequent opportunities to relieve themselves outside, and either free access in and out for cats or keeping litter trays clean.

Moreover, there is the important need for regular human contact and play to help prevent stress and boredom and ensure that any symptoms of ill-health are noticed straight away. So in many cases when pets are to remain at home, it is preferable to have someone

residence.

Boarding kennels and cat-teries are a reliable option for many owners. They know their pets will be safe and secure, with dedicated staff giving them regular care and attention. While many owners worry that their pet may not like the experience, most actually cope very well, often more than the upset of being left at home without their owner or the upheaval of staying in a strange home.

Of course, owners will want to ensure that they are happy with the boarding establishment they choose. It is well worth asking other pet own-

"While many owners rely on friends to care for their pets in the home, more and more are turning to the growing number of professional pet-sitting services."

stay at the house to provide direct care. This also gives owners extra peace of mind regarding security of their home too.

While many owners rely on friends to care for their pets in the home, more and more are turning to the growing number of professional pet-sitting services. Most owners are likely to find a friendly pet-sitter nearby and services can vary to suit individual needs from visiting the home to living in.

Some pets get to have a holiday of their own, staying at a friend or pet-sitter's home. In general, this is more suitable for dogs than cats, although it must be considered whether the visiting dog will get on with any resident pets and fit in with the lifestyle. Some indoor cats tolerate a temporary change of home surprisingly well but most are likely to find the experience stressful, especially if visiting a home with cats already in

ers about their experiences and groomers, vets and pet shops may have recommendations. Visiting the facilities and meeting the staff can help too.

Whoever is caring for a pet while an owner is away, they will need the contact details for the owner plus another emergency contact, vet practice details plus any medication and details of on-going health requirements, and perhaps a few toys or items of bedding from home as a comfort. It is advisable to leave plenty of the pet's normal food too, as a change in diet is likely to add to any stress and could result in an upset tummy.

For some owners however, the annual holiday would simply not be complete without their pet. Of course, holidaying in the UK is currently very fashionable, making pet travel quite simple whether in a caravan, motorhome or to pet-friendly holiday accommodation. And recent changes to the Pet Travel



IMAGE: By Jean-Michel Labat

Scheme mean that foreign travel with pets has become even more accessible.

The scheme allows dogs, cats and ferrets to travel within Europe and to certain other countries without the need for a period of quarantine before re-entering the UK. The rules of the scheme are strict and require pets to be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies and have a pet passport issued, amongst other things. More information is available at the DEFRA website (www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel) and from veterinary practices.

Of course, travelling does not suit every pet and owners will need to consider their own pet's temperament carefully. But with a bit of thought and attention to detail, such as taking plenty of supplies of everything the pet needs and having the details of a local vet in case of emergency, it can make for an enjoyable holiday.

Whatever their holiday plans, owners should always ensure that their pets are fully vaccinated and treated appropriately against fleas and worms to help keep them healthy during any changes in environment and routine. And having them microchipped in case they are lost during the upheaval will give owners valuable peace of mind while enjoying their break.

ASK THE VET



Royal Canin vet Gudi Stuttard answers some of your pet health questions.

Q Every time I take my puppy in the car she is sick within ten minutes. Is there anything I can do to make her better?

A You are not alone – unfortunately it seems that some dogs do suffer from car sickness, just like some people. While your puppy may never be a great car passenger there are some things that you can try which could help the situation. Certainly try to avoid feeding her just before you travel as a full stomach will just make any nausea worse.

It may also be that she is still a bit nervous about travelling in the car and this is contributing to the problem. Try to gradually reintroduce her to going in the car. Start with just short periods without the engine even running, giving her plenty of praise so that she associates the car with a positive experience. Slowly build this up until you can switch on the engine and drive a short distance, all the while stopping before she gets agitated and rewarding her with praise. Special pheromone sprays can help keep dogs calm too.

Discuss the problem with your vet too – there are some anti-nausea medications which can help in severe circumstances so it may be that this is an option for you for certain necessary journeys.

Q My two cats always go to the cattery when I go away. One has no problem with this but the other one seems to find it a bit stressful and he is always a bit withdrawn for a week or so when he gets home. Is there anything I can do to help him?

A Do they share an enclosure when they are at the cattery? Although your two cats live together and sometimes sharing can be a comfort, many cats need their own space and find being confined with another quite stressful. It may be worth giving them an enclosure each next time to see if things improve.

If your cat has a favourite bed or toy this may be a comfort at the cattery. You could also consider wiping a damp cloth along his cheeks and then at cat height around the enclosure when you get there – the staff might think you are mad but it will help transfer his own scent to the environment.

Using special pheromone sprays around the home, in the cat carrier and at the enclosure can help relax your cat too. And you could ask your vet if they think Royal Canin's special Calm diet might help.



IMAGE: By Jean-Michel Labat



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*Terms and conditions apply, available at <http://tandc.royalcanin.co.uk/summer-of-the-cat-postcard-competition>



Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



ROYALS 2012 fixtures

APRIL

12-15 Gloucestershire, home, LVCC – Gloucs 314 (D Balcombe 8-71) & 174 (D Balcombe 3-48, H Riazuddin 3-51), Hampshire 199 (S Katich 74) & 256 (M Bates 87, C Wood 65). **Hampshire lost by 33 runs.**

19-22 Glamorgan, SWALEC, LVCC – Glamorgan 103-9 dec (D Balcombe 5-33) & 256 (H Riazuddin 5-61), Hampshire 156 (L Dawson 32) & 204-8 (S Ervine 75, J Vince 28). **Hampshire won by 2 wickets.**

26-29 Leicestershire, h, LVCC – Leics 234 (L Dawson 5-29), Hampshire 217-4 (M Carberry 84no, S Katich 54, S Ervine 41no). **Drawn**

MAY

2-5 Northants, Northampton, LVCC Northants 218 (C Wood 4-52) & 232-9 (C Wood 3-58, D Balcombe 3-70), Hampshire 154 (J Vince 46no) & 179 (M Carberry 61). **Hampshire lost by 117 runs.**

7 Glamorgan, h, CB40 Glamorgan 173-7 (K Ali 3-44), Hampshire 151-2 (J Vince 83, M Carberry 60). **Hampshire won on DL Method.**

9-12 Derbyshire, h, LVCC Hampshire 352-8 dec (J Adams 122, B Shafayat 93), Derbyshire 403-9 dec (K Ali 3-60, J Tomlinson 3-101). **Drawn**

16-19 Yorkshire, Headingley, LVCC Hampshire 427 (S Katich 196, M Bates 103, S Ervine 44) & 191-2 dec (S Katich 61no, M Carberry 61no, J Adams 49), Yorkshire 399-9 dec (L Dawson 3-61). **Drawn**

20 Scotland, Uddingston, CB40 Hampshire 220 (M Carberry 76), Scotland 131 (K Ali 2-17, D Briggs 2-31). **Hampshire won by 89 runs.**

23-26 Glamorgan, h, LVCC Hampshire 316 (S Ervine 109, J Adams 42, M Bates 41) & 273 (J Adams 72, J Vince 48), Glamorgan 327 (D Balcombe 4-91) & 231 (K Ali 3-42, J Tomlinson 3-45). **Hampshire won by 31 runs.**

27 Somerset, Taunton, CB40 Somerset 212-9, Hampshire 216-1 (M Carberry 103no, J Adams 56, J Vince 44no). **Hampshire won by 9 wickets.**

31 Nottinghamshire (F), h, CB40 Notts 277-4, Hampshire 265 (S Ervine 68, M Carberry 54, J Adams 51, D Mascarenhas 48). **Hampshire lost by 12 runs.**

JUNE

3 Surrey, KIA Oval, CB40 Surrey 76-1, match abandoned.

4 Scotland, h, CB40 Scotland 230-9 (D Briggs 3-35), Hampshire 234-4 (M Carberry 148no). **Hampshire won by 6 wickets.**

6-9 Kent, Tunbridge Wells, LVCC Hampshire 303-8 (L Dawson 134no, S Katich 54), Kent 220-6. **Drawn**

14 Sussex, Hove, FLt20 Abandoned, no result

19 Middlesex (F), h, FLt20 Hampshire 157-6 (J Vince 64no), Middlesex 161-4. Hampshire lost by 6 wks.

Continued on facing page ...

HUGE NIGHT IN MY

Mascarenhas hails Hants t20 heroes

AS HE reflected on Hampshire's dramatic win against Nottinghamshire on the floodlit Trent Bridge outfield, Dimi Mascarenhas declared it to be one of the most satisfying nights of his career.

There have been many memorable occasions for Hampshire during Mascarenhas's 16 years with the county, not least the Lord's final wins of 2005 and 2009, the latter as captain.

But beating Notts in front of a partisan 11,000-plus crowd on the banks of the River Trent was a tremendous achievement that ranks high on Mascarenhas's CV.

It spoke volumes for the way the 34-year-old has led the Royals throughout the tournament that they held their nerve in such a febrile atmosphere.

Dismissing his former Hampshire teammate Michael Lumb, for a 32-ball 39, delighted Mascarenhas before Samit Patel's 33-ball 60 fired Notts to 178-7.

"They got away from us when we bowled," admitted Mascarenhas. "We knew they had a strong batting line up and it was a flat wicket.

"We just tried to restrict as much as we could. In the end they probably got 15-20 too many, but that's the nature of the game.

"We knew we were going to have to bat well to get 178."

Earlier this month, Notts beat Lancashire at Trent Bridge on their way to topping the North Group, having conceded 178-4.

But that was after being set a revised Duckworth-Lewis target of 52.

Never before had Notts failed to defend a t20 total as big as 178 in a match unaffected by rain.

Notts successfully chased 192 to win at home to Derbyshire in 2010 and 207 to win off the penultimate ball against Yorkshire in 2004.

But until Wednesday night, the biggest t20 total chased down by an away side at Trent Bridge was 173-7, which was overhauled by Lancashire in a group game three years ago.

And that was a dead rubber at the end of the group stage, with Notts having no chance of qualifying for the last eight.

Unlike Hampshire the other night, Lancashire were able to complete a comfortable nine-wicket win.

The character Hampshire showed after collapsing to 78-5 at halfway, needing another 101 from the last



Simon Walter

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CRICKET REPORTER



ten overs, made their achievement all the more impressive.

"We were right up against it, ideally you don't want to be five wickets down with ten overs to go!" smiled Mascarenhas afterwards.

Hampshire began impressively. Their 61-2 during the powerplay surpassed the 57-2 Notts made during their first six overs and would have proved the difference had Neil McKenzie been out to the last ball of the match.

That would have left the sides neck and neck on 178-7 with the powerplay scores being the decider when sides are tied on wickets lost as well

as runs scored.

"We got off to a decent start, after the first six we were right up with the rate," Mascarenhas said.

But when Sean Ervine and Glenn Maxwell were dismissed in the Samit Patel over that left the Royals 78-5, McKenzie and Liam Dawson could not look further ahead than the next ball.

Dawson's 18-ball 30 was a gem. But when his 50-run partnership with Neil McKenzie ended with a pull to deep square, Hampshire still required 50 to win from the last 26 balls.

"Trying to get ten an over is always a tough ask, and we knew how strong their bowling is, but everyone that came in played their part," said Mascarenhas, whose own quickfire 19 not out, from 13

balls, helped set up the finish for McKenzie.

"Their guys are really good bowlers at the death and we knew it was going to be tough but luckily we had the old master down the other end and he cover drove one and that was that!"

Successive fours from a hamstrung McKenzie against Andy Carter tied the scores, with James Vince fulfilling the running duties as Jimmy Adams had done in similarly dramatic circumstances for Dan Christian in the 2010 final.

"Our 12th man came out to say a tie wins it so I told Macca that we didn't want a tie, let's just win this thing," revealed Mascarenhas. "When we got closer the 12th man came out again to confirm that a tie definitely wins it. We got down to

CRICKET STORY TO TELL? CALL SIMON WALTER ON 023 8042 4482

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

CAREER – DIMI



PASSION PLAY: Dimi Mascarenhas celebrates one of his two wickets against Nottinghamshire.

Picture: Dave Vokes (LMI Photography)

the last ball and again he came out to say a tie wins it!"

McKenzie, pictured right, removed any doubt by steering the final delivery through the covers.

"Macca was absolutely awesome," Mascarenhas continued. "By his own admission he's been shocking [in the group stage] so to go out and play like he did shows his class."

"He didn't panic, he just knows his game and his areas and where he wants to hit the ball. We're all happy for him."

The win was all the more satisfying coming as it did on the back of two Clydesdale Bank 40 defeats against Notts earlier this season – most recently at Trent Bridge the week before.

"It's a huge win, they beat us convincingly both times in the two 40-

over games so it was really nice to go there and show that we can compete with these teams," Mascarenhas said.

"They're very successful in all formats so to go there and beat them on their own patch in a big quarter-final was very satisfying."

This win had shades of Hampshire's two-wicket win at The Oval in the quarter-finals of the 2005 Friends Provident Trophy, when they chased own a record 358 to beat Surrey.



"Unbelievable" win so tough to watch

JIMMY Adams admitted it was difficult to watch the second half of Hampshire's thrilling run chase at Trent Bridge.

Adams, pictured right, was out at cheaply at the beginning of Hampshire's reply so was forced to watch anxiously as the Royals chased down Notts' 178-7 on Wednesday night.

He admits it was far from easy, especially after seeing his teammates slip to 78-5 after ten overs.

But Neil McKenzie's unbeaten 79 from 49 balls was astonishingly well judged and he was expertly supported by Liam Dawson and Dimi Mascarenhas.

"At halfway we wouldn't have believed anyone if they'd said we were going to win it from there, we were a long way from where we wanted to be and the rate was climbing," said Adams. "But Macca and Liam got us back into it with exceptional cricket. Mac's a great manipulator of the ball and Daws' supported him brilliantly."

"It was a super effort. We were phenomenal in the second half; Liam, Dimi and Macca played out of their skins."

"It's never easy watching but it was an unbelievable effort to score at ten a over from that far out."



That was a competition they went on to win and there is no reason why they cannot repeat that success, even with Glenn Maxwell unavailable.

Mascarenhas was also involved in that win and having missed the 2010 t20 success with an Achilles injury, he is now hoping to play in his first t20 final. "I can't wait, we've got a chance now to win another Twenty20 trophy which would be amazing," he said.

The remaining Finals Day tickets available to Hampshire fans go on general sale on Monday.

Hampshire will be playing Somerset, who they beat in the 2010 final before being knocked out in a Super Over in last year's semi-finals.

Once again they will contest the second semi on August 25 (2.30pm) with the winners playing Yorkshire or Sussex in the final at the Swalec Stadium, Cardiff.

"The other three teams have been dominant in their group and the quarter-finals but for us it's been different," continued Mascarenhas. "We haven't dominated a team so we've got some work to do but we're there and we're in with a great chance."

"Somerset will have all their big guns back like Trescothick so it'll be tough but on the day hopefully we'll come out winners."

ROYALS 2012 fixtures

From facing page

22 Kent, h, FLt20
Kent 151-5, Hampshire 148-6.
Hampshire lost by 3 runs.

24 Kent, Canterbury, FLt20
Kent 135-6, Hampshire 138-4 (G Maxwell 66no). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

27 Middlesex, Richmond, FLt20
Middlesex 156-2, Hampshire 160-6 (S Ervine 75no, S Katich 40). Hampshire won by 4 wkts.

29 Essex, Chelmsford, FLt20
Essex 176-4, Hampshire 177-4 (G Maxwell 60no, S Katich 42no). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

30 Surrey, h, FLt20
Surrey 94-6, Hampshire 95-3 (J Vince 25). Hampshire won by 7 wickets.

JULY

2 Surrey, Kia Oval, FLt20
Surrey 84-4 (10 overs), Hampshire 63-0 (J Adams 28no, J Vince 24no). Hampshire won by 19 runs (D/L Method)

6 Sussex (F), h, FLt20
Sussex 203-5, abandoned, rain.

8 Essex (F), h, FLt20
Abandoned, rain, no result

11-14 Yorkshire, h, LVCC
Yorkshire 350-9 dec (J Tomlinson 4-80), Hampshire 39-0. Drawn

15 Durham, h, CB40
Durham 200-7 (K Ali 3-39), Hampshire 201-6 (S Katich 59no, J Vince 40). Hampshire won by 4 wickets.

17 Notts (F), Trent Bridge, CB40
Hampshire 230-7 (J Vince 102no), Notts 231-44.
Hampshire lost by 6 wickets.

19-22 Essex, Chelmsford, LVCC
Hampshire 323 (N McKenzie 139, S Ervine 55) & 54-0 dec, Essex 18-0 dec and 357 (J Tomlinson 5-86). Hampshire won by 2 runs.

25 Notts, Trent Bridge, t20 QF
Notts 178-7 (Maxwell 3-36), Hampshire 182-6 (McKenzie 79*, Dawson 30). Hampshire won by four wickets.

27-30 Kent, h, LVCC

AUGUST

6-9 Gloucestershire, Bristol, LVCC
10 Glamorgan (F), SWALEC, CB40
14 Somerset (F), h, CB40
15-18 Northamptonshire, h, LVCC
19 Surrey, h, CB40
21-24 Leics, Grace Road, LVCC
25 FLt20 semi-finals/finals
27 Durham, Chester-le-Street, CB40

SEPTEMBER

4-7 Essex, h, LVCC
11-14 Derbyshire, Derby, LVCC
15 CB40 final, Lords.

KEY: LVCC (LV County Championship division two), CB40 (Clydesdale Bank40), FLt20 (Friends Life t20), F (floodlit)

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SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

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Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

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If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



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Daily Echo

Local Cricket Spotlight

SARISBURY AIM TO PULL OFF ANOTHER ELECTRIC SHOCK



THE weather-battered Southern Electric twenty20 Cup is reaching its climax, with both semi-finals and the floodlight Ageas Bowl final being played in the coming five days.

Bashley (Rydal) and giant killers Sarisbury Athletic go head-to-head in the New Forest on Sunday (3pm), writes **MIKE VIMPANY**.

Totton & Eling face t20 holders Havant in the second semi-final at The Linden Oval on Monday evening (6pm).

The final is under the Ageas Bowl lights on Thursday evening, starting at 7 o'clock, with the winners going through to the ECB Area Finals at Hursley Park on Sunday.

It's a hectic finale – one brought about largely due to the weather problems that have ruined the British summer – and one which already has Southern Premier League officials casting an anxious glance at the upcoming (and uncertain) forecasts.

Bashley can expect a decent gate and some much needed revenue when Sarisbury Athletic come to the BCG on Sunday.

The well supported second division club have knocked out Ventnor and Alton in the past two rounds – and fancy their chances of another upset against the 2010 winners.

They upset the appallingly by knocking out Alton on Tuesday night – Peter Hammond, with an unbeaten 62, and Matt Journeaux (49 not out) sharing a century partnership off the last ten overs to put Sarisbury in the driving seat at 168-3.

Alton were in the frame at 69-1 but against some fantastic fielding – culminating in a couple of wonder



SARISBURY ATHLETIC T20 HEROES: Pete Hammond, left, and Matt Journeaux.



SEAN TERRY: Quick-fire 98.

catches by Journeaux – collapsed to 115 all out, Hammond completing a fine evening's work with a 5-13 return and Paul Jewell taking 3-26.

Hampshire's Sean Terry came within two runs of scoring the fastest-ever t20 century when he hit

98 of Bashley's 218-4 against Lymington, who were dismissed for 132 (Damian Shirazi 43).

Terry, who celebrates his 21st birthday today, will be a major threat to Sarisbury, as will be teenager Ryan Higgins, a real

thinking man's cricketer, who could be destined for a career in the game.

Havant had to wait for best part of a month to play their quarter-final with Bournemouth – but they did so on Thursday night and romped to a 101-run victory.

Richard Hindley underpinned Havant's 164-4 with an unbeaten 64 and allowed his teammates to score freely around him.

Bournemouth, a pale shadow of the side which finished runners-up in the Premier Division and were beaten Electric t20 finalists last season, stumbled to 63 all out.

The wheels really have fallen off the Bournemouth bus.

● Thursday's Electric t20 Cup winners will face Kent Premier League leaders Hartley Country Club in the ECB Area semi-finals at Hursley Park on August 5. Wimbledon play Sussex League finalists Bexhill or Horsham in the opening semi at 10.30am.

Logan run to the top

FORMER Hampshire seamer Richard Logan has swept to the top of the ECB Southern Electric Premier League bowling charts following his five-wicket haul in last weekend's defeat at Lymington.

Logan's (pictured) 22-wicket haul is one more than St Cross team-mate and captain Matt Perry-Lewis, who bagged three victims in the same match.

There's a four-way tie in the SPL2 charts, with Hook & Newnham Basics' ever-green left-arm spinner Kevin Poulter, Luke Graham, Ryan Beck and Hambledon captain Dan Hewitt vying for top spot.

Titchborne Park's Tom Allam, who won the Division 3 award last year, is out in front again.

Leading statistics:

Premier Division – batting: Dave Taylor (Totton & Eling) 297, Charlie Esson (St Cross Symondians) 287, Oli Green (Academy) 279, Nick Park (Bournemouth) 273, Neil Thurgood (Bashley Rydal) 252, James Hayward (South Wilts) 249, Ali Jaffer (Lymington) 243, James Taylor (Totton & Eling) 235, Richard Morris (Bashley Rydal) 228.

Bowling: Richard Logan (St Cross Symondians) 22, Matt Perry-Lewis (St Cross Symondians) 21, Jez Ord (Havant) 21, Richard Hindley (Havant) 19, Glenn Maxwell (South Wilts) 19, Darron Augustus (Totton & Eling) 18, Owen Alsop (South Wilts) 17, Matt Metcalfe (Bournemouth) 16, Tom Barber (Academy) 16.

Catches: Richard Hindley 7, Rob Gibson (Academy) 7, Ed Green (St Cross Symondians) 7, Pete Hopson (Havant) 6.

Wicketkeeping: Tom Morton (South Wilts) 15, Jez Bulled (Havant) 14, Nigel Bungay (Totton & Eling) 12, Ed Ellis (Lymington) 11, Lewis McManus (Academy) 10.

Division 2 – batting: Derek Kenway (Burridge) 341, Ben Thane (Hook & Newnham Basics) 339, Tristen McDonald (338), Jordan Silk (Burridge) 316, Ryan Beck (New Milton) 267, Matt Journeaux (Sarisbury Athletic) 266, Jonty Hadfield (255).

Bowling: Kevin Poulter (Hook & Newnham Basics) 18, Luke Graham (Andover) 18, Dan Loader (New Milton) 18, Dan Hewitt (Hambledon) 18, Paul Ancell (Burridge) 15, Ben Thane 15.

Catches: Scott Davies (Paultons) 7, Jonty Hadfield (Andover) 6, Chris Jolley (Hartley Wintney) 6, Paddy Pritchard (Paultons) 6, Matt Love (Hook & Newnham Basics) 6, Joe Collings-Wells (Hambledon) 6.

Wicketkeeping: Ian Metcalfe (Rowledge) 10, Nick Scutt (Hambledon) 10, Ross Hunter (Hook & Newnham Basics) 9, Jamie Road (Burridge) 8.

Division 3 – batting: Richard Partington (Gosport Borough) 375, Peter Woodland (Liphook) 371, Paul Marks (Fawley) 353, Damian Carson (US) 348, David Taylor (Totton & Eling II) 330, Ali Cheyne (Langley Manor) 327.

Bowling: Tom Allam (Titchborne Park) 25, Paul Proudley (Calmore Sports) 21, Dylan Augustus (Totton & Eling II) 20, Ed Berry (Titchborne Park) 20.

Catches: Ed Primmer (Titchborne Park) 14, Ed Berry (Titchborne Park) 8.

Wicketkeeping: Nigel le Bas (Trojans) 12, Lee Carroll (US) 11, David Lyons (Titchborne Park) 11, Darren Vann (Calmore Sports) 10, Chris Martin (Liphook) 10.

Stone is a rock for Havant

VETERAN Havant opener Steve Dean will be re-tracing his Midlands steps when Havant travel to Barnet Green in search of further ECB Kingfisher Beer Cup glory on Sunday.

Dean spent the bulk of a highly successful recreational career in the Birmingham & District Premier League and was a prolific run-getter with Walsall and for Staffordshire in Minor Counties Championship cricket.

His switch to Havant co-incided with a career move from Denstone College to Portsmouth Grammar, where he is a senior master.

Dean helped Havant into the last eight – they were beaten semi-finalists to Horsham in 2005 – with a dramatic one-wicket win over powerful Middlesex Premier League side Teddington.

Former Hampshire Academy batsman Chris Stone, right, ironically taught A-level maths at PGS by Steve Dean, won the day for Havant, with a superb 44 not out as the local Premier League champions chased down a modest 124.

Stone hit five fours and a timely six in his 44 – an innings skipper Richard Hindley described as

“very mature and nerveless.”

Barnet Green, on their own south Midlands soil, will be a tough nut for Havant to crack.

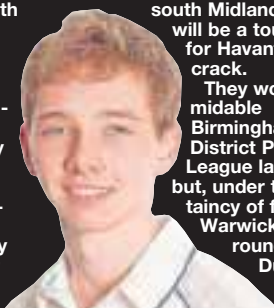
They won the formidable Birmingham & District Premier League last season but, under the captaincy of former Warwickshire all-rounder Duggie Brown,

currently lie in mid-table.

Ironically, Barnet Green were the side Horsham beat in that 2005 Lord's final.

Havant are unchanged tomorrow: Richard Hindley, Steve Dean, Ben Walker, Chris Stone, Peter Hopson, Stuart Ransley, Chris Morgan, Jez Bulled, Jez Ord, Steve Matthews, Scott Mills.

Two other quarter-final ties take place on Sunday – Cuckney (Notts) host York, and Kidderminster entertain Bamford Fieldhouse – with Bridgwater, South Wilts' conquerors, visiting Wanstead next weekend.



TITCHBORNE Park will defend the Winchester & District CA Titchborne Trophy against Longparish at St Cross Symondians' Green Jackets Ground next Thursday evening, August 2.

They beat a star-studded Winchester team in the semi-final, with Tom Allam smashing 46 off 20 balls, including five sixes, and Henry Don hitting 35 in their 138-3. Winchester were dismissed for 77.

Longparish inched past St Cross Symondians by two runs in the other semi-final. They defended 122-7 (Will de Cani 24) as St Cross finished 120-8, Jordan Finney making 34.

Sparsholt will face Owslebury in the Igglesden Trophy final.

Local Cricket Spotlight



SUPER HAUL: Russell Dearlove took 8-12 for Compton & Chandler's Ford.

Russell makes a gr-EIGHT return

RUSSELL Dearlove celebrated career-best figures of 8-12 as Compton & Chandler's Ford skittled County Division 2 strugglers Wellow & Plaitford for a paltry 39.

It was the first time this season Dearlove had played for the CCF first team – and he only stepped up from the seconds on Friday evening when someone dropped out!

But he didn't waste his opportunity, clean bowling five of his eight victims before Compton & Chandler's Ford swept to a nine-wicket win.

The victory enhanced the club's prospects of regaining the County Division 1 slot they lost at the end of last season – but plunged Wellow deeper into relegation trouble.

HOW THEY STAND County Division 2

	P	W	L	BT	BW	TTL	Av
Ventnor II	7	7	0	49	33	166	23.71
Shrewton	6	5	1	38	26	124	20.67
Old Basing	6	5	1	35	25	120	20.00
Compton & CF	7	6	1	36	23	131	18.71
N Milton II	6	4	2	34	26	108	18.00
Hayling Island	7	5	2	37	28	125	17.86
Sarisbury II	7	4	3	41	29	118	16.86
Cadnam	8	5	3	42	27	129	16.12
Hungerford	8	3	5	39	29	104	13.00
Rowner	7	3	4	33	19	88	12.57
Burridge II	7	3	4	33	18	87	12.43
Mudeford	8	3	5	32	29	97	12.12
Wellow & Pl	4	2	2	15	9	48	12.00
Bramshaw	8	2	6	36	28	88	11.00
Soton Com	6	2	4	22	15	61	10.17
East Tytherley	5	1	4	16	12	40	8.00
Portsmouth II	9	0	9	38	32	70	7.78
Otterbourne	4	0	4	14	14	28	7.00

BARKER PUTS BITE ON 'VILLE TITLE HOPES

PRE-SEASON title favourites Waterlooville are out of the running for Hampshire League honours before the County Division 1 title race has even reached the final turn.

A single-wicket defeat to an Aaron Barker inspired Ellingham was Ville's third of the rain dogged summer and leaves them in an unexpectedly low seventh place, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

With only five matches remaining, Waterlooville have virtually no hope of overhauling top two Portsmouth & Southsea and Ryde, who went into today's 13th round of matches still undefeated.

In contrast, beating Waterlooville on their own Rowlands Avenue soil – which they probably didn't expect to do – is a major fillip to Ellingham in their bid to claw away from an increasingly congested relegation zone.

Andover II and winless Bedhampton look as though they might struggle to stay up.

But Ellingham are among eight teams on the two-win mark, so there's going to be a frantic survival scrap to avoid the third relegation place in the coming weeks.

Ville were desperate to get the Ellingham game on after all the bad weather and when lanky South African John Grewar (57) piloted them to 82-2 all seemed well.

But the last eight batsmen barely managed to double the total as the Ville, with the aid of three run-outs, contrived to tumble to 166 all out.

Henry Shutler, Joe Priestly and Pete Doust shared six of the other wickets.

When Ellingham slumped to 17-3 that modest Waterlooville target didn't look achievable.

But Barker, who finished with 71 not out, stopped the riot and shared in fruitful stands with Jim Edwards (31) and 30 for the seventh with teenage left-arm spinner Dave Doust, once of the Parley Pirates indoor team.

When the ninth wicket fell, last man Pete Thompson joined Barker, who got Ellingham across the line with three balls to spare.

Portsmouth & Southsea are effectively four points clear of second-placed Ryde after beating St Cross Symondians III by 47 runs at St James's Park.

P & S were light on batting due to unavailabilities, but ever-reliable South African Ash Wallace (79) took his run aggregate past the 500-mark to underpin a formidable 258-5 total.

Evergreen Mike Patey (28) and Alex Fletcher, with 38 off 20 balls, effectively put P & S out of sight.

It looked all over bar the proverbial shouting when St Cross



VENTNOR SECOND XI: Flying high after eight straight County Division 2 wins, the latest a 347-run mauling of Rowner at Steephill, where Billy Clarke (135) and Hugh Calloway (149) racked up a massive 282-run second-wicket partnership. Back row (from left): Paul 'Baz' Franklin (scorer), Kev Cooper, Andy Whyte, Gary Cooper, Pat Morris, George Hatt, Keith Newnham (umpire). Front: Ben Woodhouse, Charlie Calloway, Josh Franklin, Mark Whyte, Ben Clarke, Henry Bartlett. Picture courtesy of Roy Honeybone

dropped to 100-7, but the visitors put some handy batting bonus points on the board finishing with 211.

"With five games to go, I'll be disappointed if we don't get promoted," said P & S captain Dave Tiller.

"We have a good set up here and all the youngsters in the team are good enough to play Premier League cricket."

Having played only five games, Ryde would ideally like to get some more win points on the board.

But today's visit of Locks Heath to Harding Shute signals the start of an important phase for the Islanders', who also still have Waterlooville, Bashley (Rydal) II and St Cross Symondians III left to play.

Bashley's mix of youth and experience has eased the New Forest club firmly in contention for a return to the refigured SPL4 next year.

They lost their opening game to St Cross Symondians, but in between the rain storms, have strung together six straight wins.

Bashley did incredibly well to even get the Midhurst game on – the BCG having been flooded only days prior to the game.

It literally was all hands to the

pump as Bashley mopped up – and then went on to beat Midhurst by four wickets.

The West Sussex guests posted 224 (Tim Powell 75) to set up an intriguing evening session.

Shaun Lilley (33), pictured left, Neil Taylor (31) and Graham Pardey (31), three players with oceans of experience, made starts along with Dorset Under-17 prospect James Underwood (30).

But, minus the bed ridden Josh Digby, they left it to the seasoned Matt King to apply the coup-de-graz – the one-time Bashley captain smashing 38 off 16 balls to get his side home with three overs to spare.

Chris Boyd was in an equally aggressive mood for Locks Heath, hitting seven sixes in his 90 which set Idlers a demanding 266-9 to overhaul.

Scott Jones (65) and Jon Richardson (45) got the Heathens away to a sound start, but Boyd's blitz and a handy knock from Matt Bashford (32) put the result beyond doubt.

Idlers' batting has been erratic all season and George Sheppard apart, they failed to make much of a fist of it as Alex Richardson (3-28), Dave Lemon (2-31), Jamie Hill (2-26) and Matt Bashford (2-29) picked off the wickets.

The only other CD1 match played produced an 82-run win for fifth-placed Portchester against strugglers Andover II at Cams Hill.

Rich Locke (41) and Steve O'Neill laid the foundations with an opening stand of 80 for Portchester, whose Western Australian import Jamie Ryan (43) hit out to ensure a healthy 211-9 total.

Apart from West Indian Howard Royce (30), Andover's reply lacked substance and they gradually subsided to 129 all out.

County Division 1

	P	W	L	BT	BW	TTL	Av
Portsmouth & S	6	6	0	40	24	136	22.67
Ryde	5	5	0	28	22	110	22.00
Bashley 2nds	8	7	1	49	34	167	20.88
St Cross IIIs	8	6	2	43	30	145	18.12
Portchester	7	5	2	35	31	126	18.00
Locks Heath	8	5	3	40	31	131	16.38
Waterlooville	7	4	3	32	25	105	15.00
*Purbrook	6	3	2	23	25	90	15.00
Rowledge II	4	2	2	17	15	56	14.00
Fareham & C	6	2	4	32	20	76	12.67
Hook & NB II	6	2	4	31	19	74	12.33
Alton II	5	2	3	19	17	60	12.00
Lymington II	7	2	5	34	25	83	11.86
* Idlers	7	2	4	26	25	81	11.57
Midhurst	8	2	6	39	26	89	11.12
Ellingham	7	2	5	27	22	73	10.43
Andover II	7	1	6	19	21	52	7.43
Bedhampton	6	0	6	16	11	27	4.50
* Match tied							

MORE HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE COVERAGE IN WEDNESDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Local Cricket Spotlight

WOKINGHAM SHOT OUT BY MARTYN'S MAGNIFICENT 7

BASINGSTOKE and North Hants are toasting their best Thames Valley League win of the season after a magnificent seven-wicket haul from Martyn James helped them crush high riders Wokingham by 151 runs at May's Bounty.

Wokingham, who remain second in the table, never really got to grips with the double pronged attack of James (7-55) and Jonathan Bradley (2-40) as they were bowled out for 98.

Earlier, Basingstoke scored 249-8 with Dean Nurse (68) and Chris Froud (58) sharing the best stand of the innings, putting on 102 for the third wicket, while Dan Coombs (19), Nick James (21) and Ryan Connor (20 not out) all added quick runs at the end.

The result – only Basingstoke's second win in their farewell TVL season before joining the Southern Electric Premier League Division 3 in 2013 – was in stark contrast to mid-May when the Bountymen were bowled out for 83 and lost by 98 runs.

After probably his side's most complete performance of the season skipper Coombs said: "Last time we played really poorly, but last weekend we really played as an all round unit and deserved the win."

"There was something in the pitch all day and I think Bradders (Jonathan Bradley) has bowled the best

Scoreboard honours legend



THE late Bernie Harrison will forever be synonymous with Basingstoke & North Hants, who have named the new electronic scoreboard at May's Bounty in his memory.

Harrison, pictured left, who died in 2006 aged 71 years, was a legend in Basingstoke cricket circles, scoring a staggering 22,533 runs for the club, besides taking more than 1,600 wickets and snapping up almost 800 catches.

A teacher by profession, he was on Hampshire's books in his younger years and played twice in the 1961 County Championship winning side. He also played football for Saints, Portsmouth, Crystal Palace and Exeter City.

spell of the season and he could so easily have seven wickets, but, as ever, MJ (Martyn James) has done a great job for us."

Skipper Coombs also had

praise for his batsmen and added: "Froud (Chris Froud) gave us a solid start and then Deano (Dean Nurse) really picked up the run rate, hitting five sixes."

Oscar winner

HAMPSHIRE Under-14s top the ECB County Championship western group after winning the three matches that have survived the weather.

They have so far beaten Cornwall, Devon and Wiltshire, and look to extend their winning start against Berkshire at Finchampstead and when Gloucestershire visit Totton & Eling on Sunday.

A second-wicket stand of 92 between Oscar Birnie (55) and Ben Caldera (39) set up a four-wicket win over Devon, who posted 149-5.

Caldera hit an unbeaten 65 as Hampshire chased down Wiltshire's 165 (Tom Fay 5-19).

Hursley Park's Joe Theobald (54) and Alex Bass (50) hit half-centuries as Hampshire totalled 170-6 before bowling Cornwall out for 97 to win by 73 runs.

Ventnor all-rounder Jayden Buckeridge hit 32 and took 3-2 for Hampshire.

	P	W	L	C	Pts
Hampshire	6	3	0	3	9
Dorset	6	2	0	4	8
Gloucestershire	5	2	0	3	7
Berkshire	6	2	2	2	6
Cricket Wales	6	2	3	1	5
Devon	5	1	1	3	5
Somerset	5	0	1	4	4
Cornwall	6	1	3	2	4
Wiltshire	7	0	3	4	4

Group clincher

HAMPSHIRE Under-15s will effectively clinch their ECB County Cup regional group if they beat Wales at Andover's London Road ground on Sunday, 11am.

They top the group after three wins, the most recent coming with an exciting 15-run victory over Devon at Sidmouth last week.

Hampshire: Joe Weatherley, Scott Tilson, Felix Ambrose, Will Arnold, Andy Gorvin, JJ Brown, Charlie Ayers, Luke Evans, Rory Prentice, Brad Taylor, Mason Crane, Ryan Murray.

Hampshire also entertain Gloucestershire at Lymington on Friday.



MATCH WINNER: Martyn James.

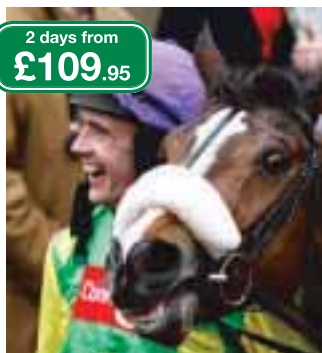
THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Bt	Bl	Pts
Reading	11	7	1	1	13	8	185
Wokingham	11	5	2	2	18	13	150
Kew	11	4	2	3	33	15	150
Amersham	11	5	0	3	11	7	147
High Wycombe	11	4	2	3	23	16	138
Beaconsfield	11	3	3	2	20	13	117
Finchampstead	11	1	4	3	51	20	117
Henley	11	2	2	4	26	18	114
Basingstoke	11	2	3	4	26	22	112
Marlow	11	0	1	8	36	20	70

Daily Echo

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Bowlers to get another chance

■ CRICKET

ENGLAND'S squad announcement tomorrow for the second Test against South Africa looks likely to see the bowling attack which struggled at the Oval given another chance.

A humbling innings defeat in London led to the usual calls for a review of the balance of the side – but this week's LV County Championship teamsheets would appear to suggest otherwise.

While the pre-series hype surrounded the battle between the two best pace attacks in the world, it was South Africa's fearsome top-order batsmen who hogged the limelight at the Oval as James Anderson, Stuart Broad and Tim Bresnan combined for only two wickets.

Steven Finn and Graham Onions are ever-present as threats to the established trio, and were watched by national selector James Whitaker as they went head to head at Chester-le-Street while those who featured at the Oval rested up.

Finn took the new ball for Middlesex as Onions' Durham side crumbled to 102 all out, the rangy paceman taking one wicket in ten economical pre-lunch overs and returning to claim the last scalp.

Onions responded with one for 36 in 14 overs, figures which did not do justice to the quality of his bowling, but it appears unlikely either will force their way into contention at Headingley.

Nottinghamshire, meanwhile, took to the field without either Broad or spinner Graeme Swann among their number as they bowled out Sussex for 171 yesterday.

A memory of England's recent past, on-loan Steve Harmison, provided Yorkshire's international pedigree in the absence of Bresnan against Leicestershire, while Anderson's Lancashire are not in action this week.

There has even been some talk of a switch to five specialist bowlers, after Ravi Bopara's return to the side brought only 22 runs and a pair of sloppy dismissals.

The Essex man followed that up with a two-ball duck in Tuesday's Friends Life t20 quarter-final against Somerset and will have no further opportunity to play himself back into form before the squad announcement, with his side also not in Championship action.

His place appears safe, though – barring second-innings heroics from either Finn or Onions coupled with a surprise selection rethink – after his main rivals for the number six spot were named in the England Lions squad to face Australia A from August 7, the day after the scheduled finish to the Test.

Eoin Morgan, jettisoned after a dismal series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates, was yesterday named captain in a squad which also includes Yorkshire's Jonny Bairstow, the man in possession against the West Indies earlier this summer.

RIVER HAMBLE GAMES 2012 - PICTURE SPECIAL



OFF THE LINE:
Runners at the start of the 10k race.
Order no: 14784914



POWER SHOW: James Longley on his way to victory in the kayaking.
Order no: 14785059



10k WINNER:
Lewis Chalk.
Order no: 14785022



TEAM EFFORT: Stubbington Green runners after the 10k.
Order no: 14785024

Pictures by Chris Moorhouse



THUMBS UP: Chris Brobin finished second in the 10k race. Order no: 14785015

RIVER HAMBLE GAMES 2012 - PICTURE SPECIAL



CHEER WE GO: Support from the sidelines for River Hamble Games competitors. Order nos: 14784951 (left) & 14784961 (above)



MASS DASH: Runners at the start of the 10k race.

Order no: 14784936



FOCUS: Ben Plumb competes in the kayaking. Order no: 14785048



PADDLE POWER: Gordon Craig in the kayaking. Order no: 14785037



READY FOR ACTION: Laser sailors (from left) Suzie Vaill, Martin Wade and Ralph Bonfield.

Order no: 14785030

PRETTY IN PINK: Runners at the start of the 10k race.

Order no: 14784903



ALL SMILES: 'Ryan and Hannah's Ultimate Engagement Party team' with Dr Ryan Buchanan, second right, and Dr Hannah Burke.

Order no: 14785044

Ground key to Askar Tau's Goodwood bid

HORSE RACING

A total of 14 entries have been received for the £100,000 Group Two Artemis Goodwood Cup (3.15pm), which is part of the QIPCO British Champion Series, run over two miles on the third day of Glorious Goodwood on Thursday (August 2).

The entries are headed by Colour Vision, who battled on gamely to score by a half-length from Opinion Poll in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot on June 21, with a neck back to John Oxx's Saddler's Rock, who is likely to reoppose.

As well as Colour Vision, Godolphin could be represented by last year's runner-up Lost In The Moment and Cavalryman, who was a Group One winner over 12 furlongs as a three-year-old and has won his last two starts in Listed company over longer distances.

Simenon is another intended runner from across the Irish Sea, representing Ireland's champion jump trainer Willie Mullins. The five-year-old completed a unique double at Royal Ascot, winning the Ascot Handicap on June 19 before an impressive seven-length success in the Queen Alexandra Stakes on June 23.

The entries also include John Gosden's Nehaam, while Marcus Tregoning is likely to run dual Group Two winner Askar Tau. The seven-year-old won the Lonsdale Cup and the Doncaster Cup in 2009 and also bagged the Group Three Sagaro Stakes at Ascot in April, 2011.

This season he has failed to win but was only beaten four and three-quarter lengths in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot when plugging on from the rear to be fifth.

Tregoning, based at Kingwood House Stables in Lambourn, said: "Askar Tau is a likely runner in the Artemis Goodwood Cup. He is in good form but he has never had his ground this year.

"He is a proper top of the ground horse so we just have to hope we get normal fast summer ground at Goodwood.

"He ran a great race in the Gold Cup at Ascot, like he did the previous year, and realistically he will always have an each-way chance, but the faster the ground is, the better his chance will be.

"He was quite disappointing on his only start at Goodwood and it can be difficult because some of them just don't like it. It's just a matter of trying to get him to travel properly and not get too far out of his ground, which happened at Ascot."

The only mare among the entries is Paul Deegan's rapidly improving Midnight Soprano, but she is more likely to run in the £55,000 Group Three iShares Fillies' Stakes (3.45pm) over a mile and three-quarters, for which 20 entries have been received.

Marcus Tregoning will also be represented in the Group Three iShares Fillies' Stakes by Hawafeez, who won a Listed race at Newbury by four lengths on her only start this season in May.

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SAINTS MAKE A TRIPLE SWOOP

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Girls and Ladies Football Club have unveiled three new signings ahead of their assault on the South West Combination Ladies Football League this coming season.

Lucy Harper, formerly of Larkhall, and Keeley Fitzgerald, formerly of Hampshire Centre of Excellence, both put pen to paper early last week, and that double swoop was followed up when Jenni Duffy, whose previous clubs included South Durham and Cestria Ladies, also signed on the dotted line.

The new faces were thrown straight into the action in Saints' friendly against Widbrook United.

And the new look line-up clicked at once, with Harper bagging a hat-trick and Duffy claiming four goals.



LUCY HARPER

Southampton Saints Ladies' 2012/13 South West Combination league campaign starts on August 19 with a home fixture against Swindon Town.

Saints then face a tricky away trip to newly promoted Oxford



KEELEY FITZGERALD

United followed by a south coast derby against Havant & Waterlooville at BTC.

The club's chairman, Mike Castle, said: "We are raring to go for the new season and I hope to see some big crowds out to sup-



JENNI DUFFY

port the Saints Ladies this year at BTC Sports Ground.

"We play our home games on Sundays, with a 2pm kick off. Entry is free and a full range of club house facilities are on offer to supporters."

WOLVERHAMPTON

Going: Standard

6.00 HOTEL & CONFRENCING AT WOLVERHAMPTON MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 2YO only 5f Penalty Value £2,264.

1	ANNA ISABELLA (D) Shaw 9 0	D Swift (3) 2
2	CLEAN BLOW (USA) (28) D Brown 9 0	R Muller 9
3	CYMERIAD (3) M W Easterby 9 0	G Gibbons 7
4	DASHING STORM (27) J Gask 9 0	R Winston 6
5	EXCEL YOURSELF (IRE) (29) J Tate 9 0	M Dwyer 5
6	GIRL AT THE SANDS (IRE) J Given 9 0	J P Sullivan 3
7	SHOWTIME GIRL (IRE) (23) J Easterby 9 0	D Allan 4
8	STAR MAID (42) A Carroll 9 0	D Probert 10
9	STAR UP IN THE SKY (USA) (40) K Ryan 9 0	Any Ryan 8
10	TOKKALILI (7) J Unett 9 0	L Jones 1

BETTING: 9-4 Excel Yourself, 3-1 Clean Blow, 7-2 Star Up In The Sky, 4-1 Showtime Girl, 12-1 Dashing Storm, 25-1 Cymeriad, Anna Isabella, Girl At The Sands, 33-1 others.

6.30 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT WOLVESRACES HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £1,704.

1	40-005	RAJEH (IRE) (82) D P Grayson 9 10 0	R FitzPatrick 8
2	6-6051	HONEST DEAL (14) (CD) G Swinbank 4 10 0	R Winston 1
3	314800	BLUE COSSACK (IRE) (27) (CD) M Usher 4 9 13	D Probert 4
4	530-06	SOURREL WOOD (IRE) (24) Mrs M Hambro 4 9 13	G Baker 7
5	006-51	LAYLA'S BOY (7) (D) J Mackie 5 9 12 (6ex)	F Norton 12
6	600000	BREAKHEART (IRE) (12) P Howling 5 9 11	M Stanton 9

BETTING: 9-4 Redair, 7-2 Asian Trader, Ziefhd, 13-2 Chalk And Cheese, 10-1 Raffinn, Adrian, 16-1 Saint Boniface, 25-1 Johnny Splash.

LINGFIELD

Going: Standard

2.25 32REDBET.COM CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 3YO only 6f Penalty Value £1,704.

1	205500	ADRIAN (IRE) (16) (D) D C Griffiths 9 1	W Buick 4
2	5-5340	SAINT BONIFACE (35) P Makin 9 0	S Sanders 3
3	0-0000	JOHNNY SPLASH (IRE) (27) R Teal 8 13	D O'Neill 1
4	306	ASIAN TRADER (24) W Haggas 8 12	R L Moore 7
5	1-0000	CHALK AND CHEESE (USA) (12) S C Williams 8 12	W Carson 8
6	4-3004	RAFFINN (12) S Kirk 8 11	J Doyle 5
7	111412	REDAIR (IRE) (6) (C) P Evans 8 9	P Hanagan 6
8	0-2040	ZIEFHD (25) P Cole 8 6	C Catlin 2

BETTING: 15-8 Redair, 7-2 Asian Trader, Ziefhd, 13-2 Chalk And Cheese, 10-1 Raffinn, Adrian, 16-1 Saint Boniface, 25-1 Johnny Splash.

2.55 32 BONUS AT 32RED.COM MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 2YO only 6f P Value £2,727.

1	22	CITY GIRL (IRE) (13) (BF) R Beckett 9 0	J Crowley 7
2	0	IDLE CURIOSITY (IRE) (18) D Boyle 9 0	J Doyle 5
3	00	IRIS BLUE (19) J Gosden 9 0	W Buick 3
4	306	JUBILIN B Johnson 9 0	R L Moore 7
5	42	NARDIN (19) E Dunlop 9 0	P Hanagan 2
6	46	OUR THREE GRACES (IRE) (28) G L Moore 9 0	R L Moore 4
7	02	SPICY (IRE) (12) M Botti 9 0	A Kirby 1

BETTING: 15-8 Spicy, 9-4 City Girl, 3-1 Nardin, 10-1 Iris Blue, 14-1 Our Three Graces, 20-1

7	00-660	BROUGHTONS SWINGER (19) W Musson 5 9 11	S Donohoe 2
8	3-3642	WHITE DEER (USA) (14) (BF) G Harker 8 9 9	S De Sousa 3
9	10-0-4	HOAR FROST (31) Mrs K Tutty 7 9 1	Gemma Tutty (7) 10
10	5-4000	BOLLISTICK (18) M Mullineux 6 9 0	S Quinlan 5
11	6-5400	REDCLUE (IRE) (110) Miss L Allan 3 8 9	M Hafford 11
12	405-00	SILENT ENERGY (IRE) (33) R Harris 3 8 4	D E Egan (5) 6

BETTING: 2-1 Layla's Boy, 4-1 Honest Deal, 5-1 White Deer, 7-1 Breakheart, 10-1 Squirrel Wood, 12-1 Broughtons Swinger, 16-1 Blue Cossack, 20-1 Silent Energy, Redclue, Hoar Frost, 25-1 others.

7.00 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK WOLVERHAMPTON RACECOURSE HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £1,704.

1	015215	ALMATY EXPRESS (20) (CD) J Weymes 10 9 7W Twiston-Davies (7) 2	
2	656660	MAWJODDAH (4) (CD) B Ellison 4 9 5	P Pickard (3) 6
3	33200-	ELEGANT MUSE (268) M Appleby 4 9 5	G Baker 13
4	000000	ACE OF SPIES (IRE) (13) (D) C Dore 7 9 5	Hayley Turner 1
5	0-3003	GLASTONBERRY (20) (D) G Deacon 4 9 4	M Dwyer 7
6	066300	NINE BEFORE TEN (IRE) (16) (D) C Smith 4 9 4	Thomas Brown (7) 11
7	000100	IRIE UTE (20) (CD) S Kirk 4 9 4	R Hughes 3
8	40053	IMJIN RIVER (IRE) (14) (D) W Stone 5 9 3	A Morgan (5) 5
9	6-3006	JUARLA (IRE) (101) (CD) R Harris 4 9 3	D E Egan (5) 12
10	013455	INVIGILATOR (14) (C/D) D Shaw 4 9 2	S De Sousa 4
11	353530	RIGHTCAR (90) (C/D) P Grayson 5 9 1	R FitzPatrick 8
12	-35000	MEN DON'T CRY (IRE) (2) D E Giles 3 9 0	E Ahern 10
13	-00016	AUBRIETTA (32) (CD) A McCabe 3 8 12	J Poullis 9

BETTING: 7-2 Glastonberry, 5-1 Imjin River, 11-2 Almaty Express, 8-1 Invigilator, Aubrietta, 10-1 Juarla, 12-1 Mawjoddah, Irie Ute, 16-1 others.

7.35 DOWNLOAD OUR IPHONE APP MAIDEN

1	0	DAY IN DAY OUT (17) R Beckett 9 3	J Crowley 1
2	0	MOCENIGO (IRE) (54) (D) J Dunlop 9 7	R Havlin 3
3	0	NO JET LAG (USA) (17) D Lanigan 9 3	T Durcan 6
4	40	FREGE (USA) (37) B Meahan 8 12	K Fallon 5
5	0	KIMVARA (38) J Tuttle 8 12	J Mongan 4
6	0	PIPER'S LASS (IRE) M Johnston 8 12	J Fanning 7
7	0	ROPEHANGER (35) L Carter 8 12	K Fox 2
8	05	SAKHEE'S ICHIGO (12) M Blanshard 8 12	D O'Neill 8

BETTING: 2-1 Frege, 11-4 Mocenigo, 4-1 No Jet Lag, 5-1 Piper's Lass, 14-1 Day In Day Out, 16-1 Sakhee's Ichigo, 25-1 Kimvara, Ropehanger.

4.05 32RED.COM FILLIES' HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £7,000 added 3YO only 7f Penalty Value £4,528.

1	-40215	NEGIN (18) E Dunlop 9 7	W Buick 4
2	224-16	BALADY (IRE) (54) (D) J Dunlop 9 7	P Hanagan 5
3	-55333	RED LARKSPUR (IRE) (33) R Teal 9 7	J Doyle 6
4	35-104	DANCE COMPANY (46) (CD) W Knight 9 5	J Crowley 8
5	620146	BINT ALZAIN (IRE) (12) (D) G Butler 9 4	R L Moore 1
6	00-234	SARATOGA SLEW (IRE) (43) M Botti 9 2	A Kirby 7
7	-44121	SUBTLE KNIFE (27) (C/D) G Bravery 8 13	W Carson 2

BETTING: 5-2 Red Larkspur, 6-1 Bint Alzain, 13-2 Saratoga Slew, 7-1 Balady, Cynthia Calhoun, 8-1 Negin, Dance Company.

STAKES (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 2YO only 6f Penalty Value £2,264.

1	04	EYELINE (16) R Hollinshead 9 3	R Kennemore 4
2	00	GAMBINO (IRE) (33) H McWilliams 9 3	P Pickard (3) 8
3	000	GOWERTONIAN (IRE) (37) R Harris 9 3	D Probert 2
4	0	INTIBAHH (30) S Meahan 9 3	D O'Shea 11
5	00	MY SWEET LORD (33) M Usher 9 3	L Newnes (5) 12
6	06	QUETOLINI (32) J Hughes 9 3	J P Guillebert 1
7	0	QUIET PRAYER (47) E Dunlop 9 3	Hayley Turner 7
8	233	RISING LEGEND (16) R Hannan 9 3	R Hughes 6
9	0	TOP TOWN BOY J Holt 9 3	A Quinn 3
10	0	CHELSA GREY (IRE) R Harris 8 12	D E Egan (5) 10
11	0	COS I CAN (13) D Shaw 8 12	S De Sousa 5
12	0	PLEASANT MOMENT T Dascombe 8 12	F Norton 9

BETTING: 4-5 Rising Legend, 6-1 Quiet Prayer, 13-2 Pleasant Moment, 7-1 Intibaah, 10-1 Plexolini, 25-1 Top Town Boy, Eyeline, 33-1 My Sweet Lord, Cos I Can, Chelsea Grey, 50-1 others.

8.05 HOLIDAY INN WOLVERHAMPTON FILLIES' HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £6,500 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £4,205.

1	2-0614	PIDIE'S POWER (33) (D) E McMahon 5 9 12	W Twiston-Davies (7) 10
2	203420	BOUNCY BOUNCY (IRE) (9) M Bell 5 9 10	Hayley Turner 6
3	0106-0	SUPREME SPIRIT (IRE) (25) C P Makin 5 9 9	R Hughes 7
4	0-2646	CAMACHEE QUEEN (IRE) (28) (CD) D Coakley 4 9 9	E Ahern 4
5	13-014	BAVARIAN PRINCESS (USA) (157) (C) Mrs K Burke 4 9 4	M Harley 2
6	6050-6	GAP PRINCESS (IRE) (40) (CD) G Harker 8 8 13	R Winston 1
7	-66282	KYANIGHT (IRE) (35) C Cox 3 8 13	A Kirby 9
8	-03143	FENELLA FUDGE (29) D Shaw 4 8 12	M Dwyer 3
9	-01603	MY OWN WAY HOME (11) (D) P Evans 4 8 8	S De Sousa 8
10	4230	CATFLAP (IRE) (33) D Haydn Jones 3 8 3	N Mackay 5

BETTING: 6-4 Aniseed, 11-4 Disposition, 11-2 Maun Vrat, 6-1 Bohemian Rhapsody, 8-1 Caphira, 25-1 Benartic, 33-1 Totally Addicted.

4.35 32 RED CASINO MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,727.

1	56	BENARTIC (IRE) (5) H Dunlop 8 9 13	D O'Neill 5
2	3	TOTALLY ADDICTED (119) M Head 6 9 13	W Carson 3
3	5-0558	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (IRE) (20) J Hills 3 9 1	S Sanders 4
4	064-35	ANISEED (IRE) (75) W Haggas 3 8 10	R L Moore 6
5	40	CAPHIRA (40) W Knight 3 8 10	J Crowley 7
6	2-3463	DISPOSITION (21) J Gosden 3 8 10	W Buick 1
7	0	MAUN VRAT (IRE) E Dunlop 3 8 10	P Hanagan 2

BETTING: 7-2 Wyebridge, 5-1 Welsh Naylor, Norfolk Sky, 8-1 Neige D'antan, 10-1 Song Of Joy, Here Comes Jeanie, 12-1 Tigertoo, Flamborough Breeze, 14-1 others.

5.10 32RED HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £7,000 added 3YO

BETTING: 5-2 Three Bards, 3-1 Mizbah, 7-2 Palus San Marco, 13-2 Dont Take Me Alive, 7-1 Hallmark Star, 8-1 Arch Villain.

5.40 32REDBINGO.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,500

BETTING: 7-2 Wyebridge, 5-1 Welsh Naylor, Norfolk Sky, 8-1 Neige D'antan, 10-1 Song Of Joy, Here Comes Jeanie, 12-1 Tigertoo, Flamborough Breeze, 14-1 others.

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Monday's runners

BETTING: 4-1 Kyanight, 9-2 My Own Way Home, 5-1 Fenella Fudge, 7-1 Bavarian Princess, 8-1 Camache Queen, Piddie's Power, 10-1 Catflap, Bouncy Bouncy, 14-1 others.

8.35 BLACK COUNTRY'S ONLY RACECOURSE HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £2,500 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £1,704.

1	54666-	SUPA SEEKER (USA) (805) A Carroll 6 9 6	A Blakemore (7) 3
2	400041	WHITSTABLE NATIVE (11) (D) J Tuttle 4 9 6	D E Egan (5) 8
3	-10646	JULY DAYS (IRE) (20) (CD) B Baugh 6 9 6	F Tylicki 4
4	510050	HOLD THE STAR (7) (CD) Miss A Stokell 6 9 6	Ann Stokell (5) 1
5	020000	VHUVON (IRE) (42) D P Grayson 7 9 6	R FitzPatrick 9
6	-56045	PRINCE OF PASSION (CAN) (19) (D) D Shaw 4 9 6	S De Sousa 7
7	-06505	STRONG MAN (10) M W Easterby 4 9 6	J P Sullivan 2
8	-50054	MAGGIE MEY (IRE) (55) (D) L Mullaney 4 9 6	G Baker 10
9	546000	HYDIE LEA FLYER (14) (C) B Leavy 7 9 5	R Kennemore 12
10	-0042U	VOLCANIC JACK (IRE) (33) A Carroll 4 9 4	M O'Connell 6
11	0000-0	BORN TO BE ACHAMP (IRE) (232) (199) G Harker 6 9 3	F Norton 11
12	-32643	GALA SPIRIT (IRE) (136) (CD) M Wigham 5 9 2	G Gibbons 5

BETTING: 4-1 Whitstable Native, 5-1 Gala Spirit, 6-1 Prince Of Passion, Maggie Mey, Volcanic Jack, 13-2 July Days, 8-1 Supa Seeker, 12-1 Strong Man, 25-1 others.

9.05 BOOK TICKETS ONLINE AT WOLVERHAMPTON-RACECOURSE.CO.UK HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 1f 103yds Penalty Value £2,264.

BETTING: 4-1 Nimble Thimble, 9-2 Noble Jack, 13-2 Spinning Ridge, 7-1 Odd Ball, 8-1 Confess, Majuro, 10-1 Encompassing, 14-1 Yaa Salam, 16-1 others.

Monday's runners

ISSN 0969-563X



P 55p ISSN 0969-563X

Published by Newsquest Media (Southern) Ltd, and printed at Newsquest (Southern) Ltd, from its offices at Newspaper House, Test Lane, Redbridge, Southampton, SO16 9JX. Telephone: 023 8042 4800. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. 123rd year. No. 37449